

Nigeria at peak of corruption, insecurity under Buhari-Kukah



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Fuel smuggling persists in borders despite subsidy removal **-Custom boss**

The Acting Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service, Adewale Adeniyi, on Monday, vowed a heavy clampdown on oil thieves, insisting that the nation cannot afford to let saboteurs take over our economy.

Adeniyi, who said there were still cases of smuggling of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, at Nigeria's border stations despite the

removal of subsidy on the commodity, said the agency had adopted new border patrol strategies to close in on oil thieves. He made the disclosure on the sidelines of a sensitisation workshop on the Nigeria Customs

Service Act 2023 for management staff of the NCS in Abuja.

Adeniyi spoke as the Nigeria National Petroleum Company Limited on Monday said it intercepted a suspected Cameroon-bound vessel with a cargo

of crude oil on board.

The Chief Corporate Communications Officer, NNPCL, Garba Muhammad, said in a statement that the cargo was intercepted on July 7, 2023, by a private security contractor engaged by the NNPCL, Messrs Tantita Security Services.

"Following the receipt of credible intelligence, a private security contractor engaged by NNPC Ltd., Messrs Tantita Security Services, intercepted a suspicious vessel with a cargo of crude oil on board on July 7, 2023," the statement read in part.

It added that the vessel, which is owned by a Nigerian registered company, was heading to Cameroun when it was apprehended.

"The Vessel, MT TURA II (IMO number: 6620462),

owned by a Nigerian Registered Company, Holab Maritime Services Limited with registration number RC813311, was heading to Cameroun with the cargo on board when it was

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Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang (left) with the President, Nigerian Institute of Building, Prof. Yohana Daniel Izam when he led other members of the council at the courtesy call at Government House Little Rayfield, Jos on Friday Photo: DANLADI DUK



Adewale

Suspend university fee hike implementation **- Reps**

The House of Representatives has asked universities to suspend the implementation of the recent increase in tuition fees.

The House also asked the Federal Ministry of Education to immediately reverse the recent hike in school fees in Federal Government Colleges (Unity secondary schools).

The directive followed two separate motions by Aliyu Sani Madaki, on the need to suspend the Implementation of an Increase in tuition fees by federal universities and the need to reverse the recent hike of school fees in Unity Secondary Schools in Nigeria by Kama Nkemkanma.

Madaki noted that because of poor funding of tertiary education and

rising inflation, federal universities including Bayero University, Kano; the University of Nigeria, Nsukka; the University of Uyo; University of Maiduguri; Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike; and Federal University, Dutse, among others, increased tuition fee from 100% to 200%, while hostel fees were increased from 50% to 100%.

Presenting the motion on the increase in fees for unity schools, Kama Nkemkanma said unity schools were established to promote national unity and provide quality, as well as affordable education to students from different parts, regardless of their socio-economic background.

The House resolved that the Federal Government

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Fuel smuggling persists in borders despite subsidy removal -Custom boss

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apprehended at an offshore location (Latitude: 5.8197194477543235°, Longitude: 4.789002723991871°), with the Captain and Crew members on board," it said.

The government had repeatedly complained that petrol from Nigeria was being smuggled to other West African countries, due to its low price in Nigeria as a result

of subsidy, when compared to its cost in these nations.

To address this and other fuel subsidy-related concerns, a lot of institutions and professionals had called for a halt in the subsidy regime, which was eventually implemented by Tinubu.

But the Customs CG revealed on Monday that smuggling had reduced but it had not stopped in some boarder stations.

Kukah spoke on Monday, while delivering a keynote speech at the 60th anniversary celebration of legal icon, Aare Afe Babalola's call to the Bar, held in Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State capital.

Bishop Kukah noted that even though corruption did not start under the last administration, it was amplified morally and financially.

"We have seen the worst phase of corruption in Nigeria, Femi Falana, my friend here will speak about that because he has published a series of articles

talking about what happened under the Buhari administration.

"They were not the ones who caused corruption, but I think in the last administration, we saw the ugliest phase of corruption whether in moral terms, financial terms and other terms", Kukah said.

Kukah lamented that Nigeria, currently reeling under insecurity, has continued to share its sovereignty with bandits and terrorists.

He said that nobody is excited now about being a Nigerian even if they are President or Senators, as the country is literally being held hostage by people who threaten the very existence of our democracy and country.

The Clergy noted that a lot of Nigerians have lost faith in the judiciary, but added that he considers the judiciary a victim the same way every other institution in Nigeria is suffering a crisis.

On his part, former President, Olusegun Obasanjo, who spoke on constitutionalism, described the self-determination of lawmakers' emoluments as immoral.

Obasanjo maintained that salary allocation for elected officials is the responsibility of the Revenue Mobilisation Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), which he said the lawmakers had jettisoned to fix salaries for themselves.

Under Paragraph 32(a-e) of Part I to the Third Schedule of the 1999 Constitution (as amended), the commission is saddled with determining the remuneration appropriate for political officeholders, including legislators, among other functions.

"The point in Nigeria which I have seen and which I can attest to is most of the people who are supposed to be operationalising or managing and seeing the constitution and democracy move forward, they are actually the ones who undermine the constitution.

"All elected people, by our constitution, their emolument is supposed to be fixed by the revenue mobilisation commission, but our lawmakers set that aside and they make laws and put any emolument for themselves.

"Even if that is constitutional, it is not moral and, of course, it is neither constitutional nor moral", he said.

Obasanjo observed that other aspects of the Nigerian Constitution including Federal Character



Kukah

were "absolutely ignored", adding that the Federal Character Commission barely carried out its function.

He commended Aare Babalola for his contributions to the development of the country.

"You have met this world at a point, you have met your community at a point, you have met your family at a point and what you have done is that what you have met, you have made it better than what you have found", Obasanjo said.

On the ongoing election petitions, the host of the occasion, Afe Babalola, suggested that judges, who preside over election tribunals should be separate from regular court judges, to avoid the halt of cases unrelated to elections.

"Our judiciary today needs a total overhaul and you cannot do it without a new constitution. I have about three cases myself in respect of matters arising from the university.

"For the past four years, these cases have been on. We have some judges here, the headquarters won't be able to sit for many months because they are handling what they call election petitions.

"Election petitions should not be handled by sitting judges, they should be decided only by the committee set up consisting of senior advocates and retired judges in that case regular courts would not close down", Babalola stated.

foreign mercenaries to attack communities including ours. We therefore, strongly suggest that the Federal Government should declare MACBAN a terrorists organisation because of the crimes that its members are perpetrating in various parts of Nigeria", the MDA President suggested.

He therefore, called on the secretary of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association in Nigeria (MACBAN) in Mangu LGA, Muhammad Salihu Musa, and his cohorts who have orchestrated a campaign of genocide against his people to desist and embrace peace and stop playing the victims. In the same vein, they enjoined their people to remain calm and peaceful.

Suspend university fee hike implementation - Reps

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take immediate steps to adequately fund the education sector by increasing budgetary provisions to ensure that Nigerian students have access to quality and affordable basic and senior secondary education.

It also resolved to investigate the fee hike by Federal Universities and Federal Government Colleges across the Country.

'PLSG is in dire financial distress'

By PETER TITLE

The Transition and a four-year Strategic Development Blue-Print Committees set up by the Plateau State Government have presented their reports to the state governor, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang revealing that the state government was in dire financial distress with a total debt and liabilities which stood at about N307 billion. The reports of the committees revealed that this amount was far more than the amount reflected in the handover note.

Making this known on Monday at the Governor's Office, Little Rayfield, the Chairman of the Committees, Professor Ganyir Lombin in

company of the members said the task given them was hectic. They observed that the handover note to Barrister Mutfwang by the outgoing administration on 29 May, 2023 were scanty and lacked details as it did not follow the agreed template developed by the joint committee.

According to Prof. Lombin, whereas the handover notes which stated that the total revenue which accrued to the Plateau State Government for the period of May 2015 - May 2023 stood at N872 billion, it failed to capture the total expenditure which was only given for the period of May 2015 - December 2022 which he noted was not up to May 2023 which stood at N810 billion.

He further revealed, "The state's current monthly debt servicing commitment is over N3.3 billion and that implies that at the end of every month, the sum of N3.331 billion is deducted from the state's revenue inflows to service the debts. This leaves the state virtually with no money to pay salaries, pension and overheads, not to talk of capital projects".

He observed that the exact workforce was not known as no adequate information was provided to the committee by the Office of the Head of Civil Service as well as other ministries, departments and Agencies. The chairman observed that it may be due to the alleged recent indiscriminate employment into the state public service.

On the Lalong Legacy Projects, the Chairman explained that the projects were marred in controversies as well as unresolved legal cases which he added have stalled their implementation. He lamented that the sum of N12 billion meant for the projects was still in the custody of the trustees of the fund.

"There are 3,692 items of government assets and properties which include cars and houses that were sold and

or auctioned at ridiculous prices both within and outside the state which need further investigation and appropriate action taken", Prof. Lombin stressed.

On the four year Strategic Development Blue -Print for the state, the committee urged the governor to look inward and provide the needed means to the people. He suggested focusing on agriculture, health-care delivery, education and human resources, physical infrastructure, road, transport and water supply amongst others.

Prof. Lombin emphasized on three areas which he also enjoined the governor to look into. These include peace and security of lives of the citizens, local government administration and chieftaincy affairs and good governance.

According to him, the current system of local government administration was put in place by the military administration in 1976. The committee stated that it was largely abused which should be tackled at all levels.

The Executive Governor, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang while receiving the reports thanked them for a job well done.

He said, it was not by mistake that they were chosen but that he knew that they were up to the task which they had accomplished.

Mutfwang assured them that the reports would not gather dust on the shelves for he would act on them immediately.

The governor said the reports had further opened his eyes on the debt burden of Plateau saying he was thinking it was about N2000 billion not knowing it was over N300 billion.

On security challenges in the state, Gov Mutfwang said it was a great concern to the government but assured that with the changes recently witnessed within the security, citizens would very soon heave a sigh of relief.

GOC convenes security meeting in Mangu

By DORCAS PANKYES

Members representing Mangu North East and Mangu South state constituency (PLSHA, Hon. Sani Shilak (Golden) and Hon. Bala Fwangje Chief Whip of the 10th Assembly attended a stakeholders' security meeting at the MYM Centre Tam at the instance of the new General Officer Commanding 3rd Armoured Div. General AE Abdulsalam.

This was revealed in a statement issued to journalist in Jos by Luka Toholde. According to him, the GOC on assumption of duty recently, moved the base of Operation Safe Haven to Mangu in order to bring an end to increased attacks and rising tension that has engulfed the area for about three months.

During the meeting, all attendees agreed to bring the security challenge to an end in order to restore back the

peace the LGA was known for.

The GOC charged the stakeholders to welcome him with a special gift by ensuring that no security breach, in whatever form, is recorded again from then on.

The statement said, while expressing his feelings about the outcome of the meeting, Hon. Sani (Golden) expressed optimism that with the sincerity of purpose and genuine signs exhibited by those who spoke, he could see the security challenge coming to an end very soon.

The meeting was coordinated by the Transition Committee Chairman, Mangu LGA, Mr. Markus Artu. Other stakeholders who were in attendance include leaders of MDA, Miyetti Allah, CAN JNI, heads of security agencies in the LGA and traditional rulers.

A group photograph with the GOC climaxed the meeting.

MDA laments over MACBAN's unguided utterances

By EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Mwaghavul Development Association (MDA), has called on the Federal Government of Nigeria to declare Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) as a terrorist organisation considering the heinous crimes of killing innocent people in Plateau State.

The National President, Mwaghavul Development Association (MDA), Chief Joseph Gwankat (KSM) made the call while addressing journalists at a press briefing, held at the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) headquarters

Jos, the Plateau State capital following Wednesday and Thursday attacks.

The President said, "It is instructive to still re-emphasise that the Mwaghavul people have been living in peace with their neighbours from time immemorial and have never attacked any of them for whatever reasons. However, recently, Fulani terrorists chose us as a target for mayhem without any form of provocation.

"Preceding the attacks which started from April till date, shortly after the governorship election, several cases of kidnapping, farmland

destruction and other criminal activities perpetrated by these Fulani terrorists were recorded in different parts of the LGA, yet, our people refused to be provoked.

"It is, therefore, surprising that our attackers who have destroyed our villages and killed our people in large numbers are the ones that are crying most, after inflicting so much pains and agony on our people. This evil act is being perpetrated under Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN)", he enthused.

Gwankat, however, wondered why the Miyetti Allah would

raise such spurious allegations claiming that they were attacked by Operation Rainbow operatives, after killing a total of two hundred and four (204) people with many still missing in Mangu land rendering over fifty-three (53) displaced.

"We find this not only amusing but also a calculated attempt to paint black the image of the state government, under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Barr. Caleb Mutfwang, and to suggest that it is biased in handling the situation. Let it be known that these antics of MACBAN are not new. They have made spurious

claims in the past and are still making it based on the real situation in Mangu LGA.

"It is therefore, not surprising that the same aggressors who have been having a field day on our people will still turn around and claim innocence, just to hide their heinous crimes. We challenge MACBAN to provide evidence of their claims. We want to state in clear and unequivocal terms that MACBAN and their terrorist members are simply running away from their own shadow, due to the heinous crimes they have committed in Mwaghavul land.

"It is in the public domain that MACBAN has been hiring



Business & Economy

Nigerian Economy: The pains and gains of reform

AFTER years of prevarication by successive federal governments, the Bola Ahmed Tinubu administration bit the bullet on the removal of subsidy on the pump-gate price of petrol. Given the toll that subsidy has exerted on public finances, it is scant surprise that prognoses on the economy's outlook have brightened. The new government floated the naira's exchange rate too. Again, raising the prospects of a more efficient management of the nation's scarce external reserves.

Yet, against the backdrop of the previous government's cack-handed policy on the economy, these were always going to be difficult decisions. If nothing else, the continuing pass through to the economy of the botched banknotes swap scheme early this year was always going to sour the tolerance for reforms. Sadly, the cost of living adjustments that the populace is having to make on the back of the new government's rapid-fire policy changes have driven up poverty rates across the country. Eventually, not only will consumer spending collapse as people get poorer, the unemployment rate, already at dismal levels, will rise further, as business investments contract in adjustment to reduced consumer spending. The odds of government spending picking up the resulting slack lengthens, as the cost to the Federal Government of servicing its debt portfolio outpaces its earnings.

Understandably, these adverse outcomes are fuelling a concerted pushback against the Tinubu administration's apparent preference for market-based solutions to some of the economy's seemingly intractable trade-offs. A growing cohort of the local commentariat is advocating the taking of pruning shears to government as an alternative to the pains that the people currently bear. A more efficient, qualified and focussed bureaucracy is a non-negotiable requirement if the Nigerian economy is to finally make the much-advertised transition from a public sector-led to a private sector-driven format. The argument for bringing down the cost of governance is a handmaiden of our search for market-based solutions.

However, the main argument for markets is not just that the scarce resource base available to governments means that they cannot do all in an economy. If we were to leave things at that, then any improvements from the reorganisation of the Nigerian economy would only have it return to its past addictions in the near future. Markets are not a temporary expedient for boosting the efficacy of limited government spending. They are where innovation, risk-taking, and cutting-edge management practices take place in an economy.

Given enough suppliers in any market, the incentive for each is to deepen market share or boost profitability by developing new products or cheaper means of delivering services. This is the



Edun

route from Nokia's dominance of the mobile phone industry several years ago, to the iPhone's pre-eminence today. It is the path that describes why Tesla's market capitalisation is in multiples of the traditionally dominant manufacturers of petrol-engine vehicles. It is also the route from the exorbitant cost of a mobile phone package in the country a few years ago, to the flogging of ultra-cheap SIM cards by a diverse array of vendors today.

Down this path, one possibility presents itself for the two main reform initiatives of the Tinubu government. Both the price of petrol and the external price of the naira have been left to the markets to determine. And in both markets, a surfeit of demand over supply is currently pushing prices up. As the experience of planned economies remind us, a government cap on prices in these circumstances results in queues and queue-jumping. Higher prices, on the other hand, reduce demand until a new equilibrium is reached with available supply. In a market with

few restrictions to the entry and exit of both buyers and sellers, higher prices have the additional effect of incentivising new supply sources, which invariably help push prices lower, again until a new equilibrium is reached with the prevailing levels of demand. Giving the multiplicity of transactions in any such market, governments struggle, as is evident in our recent experience, to anticipate these equilibriums.

Having moved the price discovery process in both the foreign exchange and petrol markets on to the price mechanism, the Tinubu government is challenged to remove all the kinks in these markets' respective supply chains that may reduce the responsiveness of suppliers to changes in prices. Still, market volatility means the market does not always get these equilibriums right, especially in the face of shocks. And often this occurs in industries where the gains from investing in the provision of a good or service are not fully internalised by the business providing it. In



Adedeji

other words, markets fail.

Governments may seed the process by which markets innovate, as the experience of the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency in the US shows. Governments ought, indeed, to design safety nets to ensure that economic entities that cannot innovate or whose bid to innovate come a cropper, do not forfeit their potential to contribute positively to society's growth and development, and that individuals associated with this process do not become public charges. But governments usurp the market's ability to aggregate discrete data, and to achieve allocative efficiencies on this basis, only at great cost to society. This is the lesson of the Soviet Union's implosion. It's the same with what China's transition to a market-based economy from 1979 teaches.

PREMIUM TIMES aligns with the Tinubu government's reform direction, even as it is troubled by the privations that the larger number of our people have had to bear of late on this account. Given the inefficiencies that we have engineered into our system over

the years, there is no gainsaying the fact that the gains from reforms were always going to come with much pain. Invariably, in reforming economies, these pains are as disruptive as their incidence is immediate. The gains, on the other, trickle in over longer-term horizons. The four-year electoral cycle and the burden of underdevelopment in countries such as ours, then doom reforms of this nature to stop-start cycles that maximise their pains, while putting off their benefits.

This dynamic may be mitigated by government emplacing pro-poor policies, including conditional cash transfer schemes that reduce the incidence of rising costs on the poor and vulnerable. PREMIUM TIMES recognises that the infrastructure for these pro-poor initiatives are in place, but worries that the interoperability of the diverse databases without which more efficient disbursement under such schemes will not be possible, requires additional reforms of their own. While calling on the Tinubu government to immediately implement the agglomeration of biometric and demographic data required to drive targeted pro-poor programmes, we believe that the most important reform initiative would be those, through better schooling and healthcare outcomes, that lend a fillip to the quality of our domestic human capital endowment.

The irony is that this latter category of reforms is where the market fails, and the government comes into its own. Those who would have our governments play more visible roles in the management of the economy should therefore nudge them towards those places where the economy is likely to get the most benefits from every naira spent.

Economic confidential.

"Having moved the price discovery process in both the foreign exchange and petrol markets on to the price mechanism, the Tinubu government is challenged to remove all the kinks in these markets' respective supply chains that may reduce the responsiveness of suppliers to changes in prices. Still, market volatility means the market does not always get these equilibriums right, especially in the face of shocks. And often this occurs in industries where the gains from investing in the provision of a good or service are not fully internalised by the business providing it. In other words, markets fail. Governments may seed the process by which markets innovate, as the experience of the Defence Advanced Research Projects Agency in the US shows. Governments ought, indeed, to design safety nets to ensure that economic entities that cannot innovate or whose bid to innovate come a cropper, do not forfeit their potential to contribute positively to society's growth and development, and that individuals associated with this process do not become public charges."



Business & Economy

PLSG to remit deductions as at when due

By JIDAUNA DARING

GOVERNOR Caleb Mutfwang of Plateau State has reaffirmed his administration's readiness to remit the monthly deductions from source to the cooperative societies that are under government pay roll in the state.

Mutfwang who was represented by his deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo stated this during this year's PLASCOFED celebration of International Cooperative Day with the theme; "Cooperative for Sustainable Development", held at the Rwang-Pam Stadium Jos, last Saturday.

He said that the importance of the cooperative cannot be overemphasized, since it is geared towards empowering and generating profits to members as well as improving their living condition.

Mutfwang also assured workers in Plateau State that his administration would do everything possible to ensure that civil servants are being paid as at when due in the state.

In his remarks, President Cooperative Federation of Nigeria (CFN), High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola appreciated Plateau State government and PLASCOFED for the warm reception accorded him before and during the event.

Ayeola said, while on a courtesy visit on Governor Mutfwang at the Government House Little-Rayfield Jos, Mutfwang Promised to do total overhauling of the cooperative societies in the state.

He called for mutual beneficial relationship between the state government and PLASCOFED, so as to move the state forward economically.

Ayeola maintained that the cooperative society contributes immensely in poverty reduction, job creation, and the overall improvement of the livelihoods of the cooperators.

He pointed out that the choice of this year's theme underscores the cooperative movement's commitment to collaborative efforts in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Cooperatives activity contribute to various SDGs, such as poverty eradication, food security, gender equality, peaceful co-existence and fostering sustainable production among others.

Earlier in her remarks, PLASCOFED President. Mrs Hannatu Paul Mershak



Mershak

thanked God for making it possible for them to celebrate the International Cooperative Day which is celebrated every 1st Saturday of July globally, but PLASCOFED chose to celebrate her own July 8, 2023

Mrs. Mershak said that the aim of the day is to highlight the contributions made by cooperative movements in providing solutions to some of the problems confronting the world, and to promote the movement's ideals of international solidarity, economic efficiency and world peace.

She added that other aims of the day is to highlight the success and challenges of the cooperatives and chart a way forward for further growth and development in the coming

Host communities extol Africa's foremost humanist

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

AFRICA'S foremost humanist, Aliko Dangote, has received torrents of acclamation from the communities hosting the Dangote Industries Limited (DIL) in Nigeria.

Mr. Dangote, who is the continent's wealthiest person had earlier endowed his Aliko Dangote Foundation (ADF) with a whopping \$1.25 billion, with his businesses donating several billions of naira for numerous Corporate Social Responsibility Schemes across Africa.

A statement from the Branding and Communications Department of the company said several billions of Naira have been donated by Mr. Dangote to support health, education and environment in Nigeria, Africa's most populous nation.

Meanwhile, host communities in the northern states of Kogi, Benue, Nasarawa and Adamawa States have thumbed up DIL for what they described as significant interventions in their communities.

A catalogue of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) schemes in the coal mining

years while strategizing to surmount identified challenges. It again, offers cooperatives the opportunity to strengthen and extend partnership between the movement and other actors including government at local, national and international levels.

Mershak pointed out that some of the challenges faced by the cooperative in the state include; Obsolete Act/absence of state cooperative law, delayed in remittances of some primary cooperative deductions by some employers and insecurity which has posed serious challenges to the cooperative movement, such that cooperative businesses are threatened among others.

communities of Benue shows that at the EfecheAkpali community, the company had completed several projects as contained in the Community Development Agreement (CDA).

The Community Development Agreements (CDA) signed by the company and host communities had helped accelerate the provision of infrastructural development around the host communities, the statement added.

Penultimate week, the Dangote Coal Mines donated multimillion naira in health and educational facilities to the coal mining communities of Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi.

The newly commissioned facilities are located in the host communities of AwoAkpali and AwoOjuwo in Ankpa Local Government Area.

General Manager, Special Duties, Dangote Mines Limited, NuhuElujah, said the projects are contained in the mutually consented Community Development Agreement (CDA).

Mr. Elujah said that the CDA was earlier signed by the Dangote Coal Mines and the host communities.

Reacting, the Chairman of Ankpa Local Government

By DORCAS PANKYES

LEADING professional accounting body, the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), has called on President Bola Ahmed Tinubu to populate his cabinet with chartered accountants.

In a press statement, ICAN emphasized the vital role that chartered accountants play in ensuring proper accountability and effective public governance.

ICAN commended President Tinubu for his bold economic policy reforms, including the removal of fuel subsidies and the unification of the exchange rate. The organization also lauded his support for clean energy transition, which it views as a move towards energy justice and a means to reduce the country's debt exposure.

ICAN particularly appreciated the president's consideration for low-income individuals in these reforms.

However, ICAN urged President Tinubu to prioritize the appointment of more chartered accountants in his cabinet. The organization cited empirical evidence that organizations with a higher number of chartered accountants outperform those with fewer accountants in terms of service delivery and financial performance. Examples drawn from Zenith Bank, the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), and the Lagos State government further support this correlation.

Populate cabinet with chartered accountants, ICAN tell Tinubu



Tinubu

ICAN believes that the President's administration will experience greater performance success by engaging more chartered accountants. Specifically, ICAN called for a Minister of Finance who is a chartered accountant, economist, combining qualifications in both accounting and economics.

The press statement emphasized that ICAN chartered accountants possess a wide range of expertise, including economics, engineering, medicine, architecture, political science, and religious leadership. By ensuring accountability within

each cabinet member and their ministry, ICAN believes that corruption will be minimized, governance will be improved, and Nigerians will reap the benefits of democracy.

Notably, President Tinubu, an accountant himself, is well-positioned to understand and appreciate the significance of ICAN's recommendation.

Innocent Okwuosa PhD, FCA, President of ICAN, released the statement highlighting the importance of chartered accountants in public governance and calling for their increased inclusion within President Tinubu's cabinet.

PSC approves dismissal of 3 senior officers

By DORCAS PANKYES

THE Police Service Commission has approved the dismissal of three senior Police officers over cases of misconduct and abuse of office. Nine other officers were reduced in rank including a Commissioner of Police.

This was conveyed in a press statement issued to newsmen Sunday by Ikechukwu Ani, Head, Press and Public Relations.

The statement noted that the Commission took these decisions at the continuation of its 21st Plenary Meeting which began at its Corporate Headquarters in Jabi, Abuja on Thursday July 6th 2023

and presided over by Justice Clara Bata Ogunbiyi, CFR, retired Justice of the Supreme Court and Honourable Commissioner representing the Judiciary in the Commission who stood in for Commission's Chairman, Dr. Solomon Arase CFR, retired Inspector General of Police.

The statement said Dr. Arase had welcomed members during the plenary via zoom and commended them for fastidiously attending to disciplinary matters.

He opined that this is in line with his promise not to do anything that will impede the career progression of any officer.

The Commission during the meeting also approved the compulsory retirement of an Assistant Commissioner and directed a refund of all entitlements wrongly paid to him.

It approved posthumous promotion of late Inspector IfeanyiOroko to the next rank of ASP 11 for acts of gallantry and reinstated one dismissed Inspector AugustinaOko to take effect from the date she was dismissed.

The Commission also approved the punishment of severe reprimand on 16 officers and reprimand for another 18. It directed that letters of warning should be given to two other officers.

The statement further explained that the Commission had earlier approved the appeal for adjustment on the date of promotion to the rank of Assistant Commissioner of Police of ACP Woke Iheanyi Kingsley and reinstatement of CSP Anaele Samuel Onuoha in compliance with a Court judgment.

The 21st Plenary Meeting of the Commission reconvened on Tuesday, July 11th 2023.

Council, Alhaji Ibrahim Abagwu, thanked the company for the gesture.

The representative of the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel Development, Samuel Olaetan, commended the management of the company for fulfilling its promises.

He advised the host communities to continue to support the company in the discharge of its CSR schemes.

The monarch of Ankpa, OnuOjoku, Alhaji Mohammed Ogbe, represented by his Council Secretary, Alhaji

Usman Abu, lauded the efforts of Dangote Group for ensuring that the agreement signed by both parties came to fruition.

The National Chairman, Awo Community Development Association, Robert Agagwu, appreciated Dangote for the timely completion and delivery of the projects.

Only recently, the Dangote Cement Plc, Obajana Plant commissioned a water project, even as it laid the foundation of a block of classrooms for secondary students.



Dangote



Business & Economy

Deregulation: Monthly fuel consumption declines by 18.5million

THE volume of Premium Motor Spirit, popularly called petrol, that was consumed across the country in the first half of 2023 is 11.26 billion litres, the Federal Government has said.

It was, however, observed that after the removal of subsidy on petrol, following the pronouncement by President Bola Tinubu on May 29, 2023, PMS consumption reduced by an average of about 18.5 million litres daily in June.

Data obtained on Sunday from the Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority in Abuja (NMDPRA) on Sunday, showed that between January 1 and May 28, 2023, which was the pre-deregulation period, the total amount of petrol consumed nationwide was about 9.9 billion litres.

The average consumption for the 148-day period was put at 66.9 million litres, indicating the country consumed an average of 66.9 million litres of petrol daily during the five-month period when subsidy on petrol was still in place.

Source: **Economic Confidential**



Fuel pump

FG seeks reintroduction of private sector led commodity

By **DAMILOLA ODIFA**

AS the Tinubu-led government plans to reintroduce commodity boards, experts in the agricultural sector are calling for

a private sector-led commodity board initiative.

The experts say the private-led commodity boards will ensure that the counts of corruption, personal enrichment and

duplicity of functions that led to the abolition of government-owned commodity boards do not reoccur.

"While government platforms

have goals centred around policy and government-led agriculture industrialisation, private exchanges optimise for increased returns across the value chain," said Obianuju

Okafor, AFEX communication manager

"Private exchanges prioritise market efficiency, price transparency, improved market access, as well as leveraging technology innovation to improve products and processes," Okafor added.

President Tinubu had stated in his 'renewed hope' manifesto, that his administration will reintroduce commodity boards to establish minimum prices for farmers of some strategic crops.

According to the document, it will improve certainty and increase farmers' capacity to produce more food staples needed to sustain the country's growing population.

Ibrahim Kabiru, national president of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, said the previous boards were abrogated because there was too much control and some corruption in implementation.

However, he said, "with transparency and private sector investments, the commodity boards operating as veritable commodity exchanges will now serve the farmers better, thereby incentivising productivity which could lead to sufficiency."



News

Plateau speaker describes killings as murder, genocide

By PAULINE DALLONG

SPEAKER of the Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA), Rt. Hon. Moses Thomas Sule has described the killings in some parts of the state as a deliberate act of murder and genocide and not what many call 'a clash or farmers/herders clash', and that any attempt to take human life is unacceptable and punishable under the law.

He made this known, when members of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Plateau State chapter led by the Chairman, Rev Father Polycarp Lubo paid him a courtesy call in his office, at the assembly complex.

The speaker who expressed serious concern with the security challenges going on unabated said it was rather unfortunate that it is now taking a different dimension, adding that the rate at which it is spreading is a course for alarm.

He disclosed that upon assumption of office, one of the first items dealt excessively with during plenary was the issue of insecurity, assuring that laws of the tenth assembly will be such that will be beneficial to all citizens including giving the executive the necessary backing to tackle the menace.

According to him, he was elected to work for all Plateau people, not for self or a selected few as he promised to do everything within his power to ensure that a great percentage of displaced



Sule

persons go back to their ancestral homes.

On the state security outfit Operation Rainbow, the speaker revealed that it was ready to come up with a legislation that will empower it to operate, especially in the areas of funding, manpower and all that it needs to function effectively.

Speaking earlier, leader of the delegation, Rev. Father Polycarp Lubo said the purpose of their visit was to first and foremost congratulate the speaker on his emergence as leader of the tenth assembly and to show their support and solidarity.

While enjoining the speaker to work for the interest of Plateau, the clergy assured that despite the enormous task

ahead of him and his colleagues, prayers will always be said to God for wisdom and strength.

He called for the Anti-Land Grappling Act to be fully operational in the state, whereby people can go to the court of law and challenge any attempt by anybody to take their lands, also for a law that will ensure that all displaced persons go back to their ancestral homes.

In his words: "Enough is enough on the killings in Plateau State. Christians are concerned and worried about the insecurity going on and I am appealing to the state assembly to create a law that will permit citizens to carry arms for self defense".

Ahead of November 11 gubernatorial election in Kogi State, Governor Yahaya Bello has vowed to do everything lawful to guarantee peaceful, free, fair and credible polls.

Bello also reiterated government's endorsement of the recent joint operation carried out by security agencies in the state, in which a notorious gang leader was neutralised, saying that the operation has reduced crime in Kogi east by over 40 per cent.

The governor who spoke through his Commissioner for Information and Communications, Kingsley Fanwo, gave the assurance at the quarterly press briefing of the ministry on Monday in Lokoja.

The governor stressed that no amount of blackmail by desperate enemies of the state would stop the government from protecting lives and property of Kogites and cooperating totally with law enforcement agencies to rid the state of crime.

He said the Kogi State Government would not submit its authority to criminals, while calling on security agencies to invite those tagging the operation an extrajudicial killing and inciting violence for thorough investigation.

"They must be held to account for their claims," he stressed. "We can't come this far taming terrorists for the past 90

non compliance to the electoral guidelines of 2022.

Gov Kefas forwards commissioner-nominees, advisers for approval

From Victor Gai, Jalingo

THE Taraba State House of Assembly had on Monday received the names of 21 commissioner-nominees and 40 Special Advisers for approval into the State Executive Council.

The names were contained in a letter forwarded to the House by the Executive Governor of Taraba state, Dr. Agbu Kefas.

The names of the commissioner-nominees are: Nicholas Oliver Namessan-Agriculture and Food Security, George Peter-Commerce, Trade and Industry, Gideon Samuel Nanso- Digital Economy and Innovation, Augustina Godwin-Education, Naomi Tanko Agbu-Energy and Economic Development, Aishat Abdul-Azeez-Environment and Climate Change, Serah Enoch Adi-Finance, Budget and Economic Planning, Joseph Titus Nagombe- Heritage and Ecotourism, Bodia Gbansheya Buma- Health, Zainabu Usman Jalingo- Information and Re-Orientation.

Others are: Yakubu Maikasuwa SAN- Justice,

Kogi guber: Govt. promises peaceful, credible polls

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja



Bello

months only to lose it to the garrulous crime-sponsors defending a criminal," the governor emphasised.

"Government would do everything within the curve of law to guarantee a peaceful poll in November, warning that intimidation, ethnic/ religious profiling and other anti-social and unconstitutional acts would be met with stiff resistance.

"It is our responsibility to give confidence to our people that they are free from attacks while exercising their franchise," he noted.

"The late Kabir Bala popularly known as Okwo was a terror in the East, kidnapping and raping young women and housewives and terrorising

the entire Kogi East.

"Motorists traversing the state were subjected to 'Okwo levy' to the embarrassment of the state, among other acts of extreme intimidation and criminality.

"Kabir Bala opened fire on security operatives with the intent to murder them. According to the report by the security agencies, they engaged his gang at this point and he was neutralised in the process.

"The question you need to ask the SDP fans of the late Kabir Bala is: What is their interest in the criminal enterprise of the late crime-lord? Was there a pact between them and the late notorious leader to assassinate members of other parties?" he asked.

Tribunal adjourns pre-hearing of Gotom verses Plang's case

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Court '6' of Jos High Court, Plateau State, has adjourned the pre-hearing in a petition filed by Ambassador Golkona Yohanna Gotom, of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), challenging Senator Diket Plang, of the All Progressive Congress (APC)'s declaration as winner of February 25, election.

The Chairman of the Election Petition Tribunal Committee, Justice Tukur Muhammad, made the adjournment Monday,

while presiding over the case following submissions by Counsel to the Petitioner, Prof. Sylvester S. Shikyil, SAN, Counsel to the 1st Respondent, Sani Rabiun Esq, Counsel to the 2nd and 3rd Respondents, NK Danyin Esq and Sunday Obande Esq respectively.

Earlier, Counsel to 3rd Respondent, Sunday Obande Esq, after the counsels submitted that they prepared for pre-hearing, applied that he just stumbled on the petition and may not have prior knowledge of the proceedings and would want the tribunal to allow him to go through it.

However, Counsel to the Petitioner, SS Shikyil, SAN, pleaded that the tribunal should consider the request and that the pre-hearing should be stood down to enable the Counsel to the 3rd Respondent, which the tribunal obliged and two hours was given for counsels to reconcile their documents.

On resumption for the pre-hearing proper, Counsel to the Petitioner applied

that all answers and application would be served for adoption in the next 24 hours for effective services immediately and the case was adjourned for pre-hearing proper on July 18, 2023 and would be taken concurrently.

Also adjourned to July 15, 2023 was the Petition suit No. EPT/PL/SEN/02/2023 filed by Barrister Simon Bako Lalong, of the All Progressive Congress (APC) challenging the declaration of AVM Napoleon Bali, of the People Democratic Party (PDP) as winner of February 25 National Assembly Election to represent Plateau South.

Meanwhile, former Majority Leader of the Plateau State House of Assembly, Hon. Daniel Naanlong Gapyil, of the APC has challenged the current Speaker of the 10th Assembly, Rt. Hon. Sule Thomas, claiming that he was declared in error because there was over voting and massive irregularities caused by



Plang



Kefas

Habu James Phillip-Cooperative and Poverty Alleviation, Julius Peter- Rural and Urban Development, Usman Muslim Abdullahi-Science and Technology, Savior Badzoilig Noku- Special Duties and Social Services, Philister Ibrahim Musa- Social Justice and Re-Integration, Yakubu S. Yakubu-Transportation Development, Mary Sinjen- Women Affairs and Child Development, Daniel Ishaya- Water Management

and Aquatic Affairs, Nosed Luka- Works and Infrastructure Development and Joseph Joshua- Youth and Sport Development.

The House, which was presided over by Speaker John Kizito Bonzena, unanimously accepted the nomination of the appointees. The Speaker then directed the Acting Clerk of the House, Salmuna Amos Sani to communicate the nominees for screening Tuesday.

Politics

Tinubu: A real politician in Aso Rock

Nigeria's seat of government – the Aso Villa – has received many visitors since President Bola Tinubu took office. Many visitors, including politicians, diplomats and other dignitaries from both within and outside the country, have commended him for a string of policies that have been described as bold and capable of helping put the economy on a strong footing if well implemented, writes ANTHONY AILEMEN.

TINUBU has hosted many of the politicians who played active roles during his campaigns, as well as some members of the opposition parties.

Just last week, he met with Pius Anyim, former secretary to the government of the federation, and Olisa Metu, former national publicity secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), at the Presidential Villa. Anyim had contested the 2022 PDP presidential primary and lost to former Vice-President Atiku Abubakar.

Though the outcome of the visit of the two chieftains of the main opposition PDP was not made public, some have said it signalled Tinubu's move to form a government of national unity, cutting across all political parties.

Shortly before the Sallah break, he had a meeting with Rabiu Kwankwaso, the presidential candidate of the New Nigeria Peoples Party and former Kano State governor.

The Kano top politician, while speaking with State House journalists, did not hide his intention to work with the President in whatever capacity.

Tinubu had also had several meetings with the leader of the PDP G5 group, and Nyesom Wike, former Rivers Governor, who is rumoured to have made the president's ministerial list. With the list of his cabinet members still eagerly being awaited, the Presidential Villa has continued to witness intense political activities. It was reported that as hordes of lobbyists besieged his Bourdillon home in Ikoyi, Lagos, during the Sallah break, the president had to take "cover" elsewhere. A bill recently signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari compels the President and the 36 state governors to nominate their cabinet members, ministers and commissioners, as the case may be, within the first 60 days after assumption of office for confirmation by the Senate or State House of Assembly.



Tinubu

Lawrence Alobi, a former police commissioner, likened Tinubu to the late Umaru Yar'Adua, who he described as "the first real politician to occupy Aso Rock". He said: "What we are seeing reminds us of the late President Yar'Adua, whose tenure would have been the best. He was a detribalised leader who brought everyone under his political fold."

"That was why he was able to quickly deal with the armed uprising in the Niger Delta by introducing the Presidential Amnesty program that led to stability in oil production and much more economic gains. "We believe that President Tinubu has started well and will continue with these good policies, not being carried away by ethnic considerations and pressures from his political party to favour any part of the country above the others. I see him succeeding."

Suleiman Larmorde, an Abuja-based legal practitioner, attributed the

President's activities so far to the presence of "a strong team of technocrats and well-informed loyalists". Lamorde believes Tinubu has started well.

"Honestly, we have seen a great change from what we are used to. He is a real politician and has also shown us that he was truly prepared for office. He must have developed this blueprint about 10-15 years earlier," he said.

"Addressing the issue of

multiple taxation, which weakened the economy, will give a big boost to the economy."

Lamorde, who is also a chieftain of the ruling APC, also applauded the removal of the security chiefs, which he said "has also begun to bear fruits in the security sector".

"Above all, he has been consulting with relevant stakeholders, which is providing him with the necessary wisdom to do the

needful. I hope that the trend continues," he said. Speaking on Tinubu's waited ministerial list, he said only very well-experienced technocrats will be brought in.

"He will not joke with key sectors. We are expecting that things will be done properly. You have to know what you are doing to serve in Tinubu's government, because the President himself has said that we are supposed to be driving the economy of African countries and not struggling to initiate policies for survival and I trust he will not fail," Lamorde said.

He also saw President's appointment of Femi Gbajabamila and George Akume as chief of staff and secretary to the government of the federation respectively as a clear demonstration of his desire to establish a strong administration, made up of technocrats.

"Don't forget that the President appointed time-tested loyalists and technocrats who have been working with him and who are also behind the success story of Lagos," he told BusinessDay.

A private sector operator, who did not want his name in print, while also expressing his confidence in the Tinubu administration, however, called for caution, saying that "it is too early to judge".

"I believe that he has started well, but let's wait for the cabinet and the end of the election petitions," he

Tinubu had also had several meetings with the leader of the PDP G5 group, and Nyesom Wike, former Rivers Governor, who is rumoured to have made the president's ministerial list. With the list of his cabinet members still eagerly being awaited, the Presidential Villa has continued to witness intense political activities. It was reported that as hordes of lobbyists besieged his Bourdillon home in Ikoyi, Lagos, during the Sallah break, the president had to take "cover"

IMAGES

MUTFWANG RECEIVES CFN PRESIDENT

Plateau State Governor, Barr. Caleb Manasseh Mutfwang on Friday received on courtesy call the President, Cooperative Federation of Nigeria and International Cooperative Alliance, Africa, High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola at new Government House Rayfield, Jos



Governor Mutfwang (left) putting heads together with the President, CFN, High Chief Ayeola



President Cooperative Federation of Nigeria and ICA, Africa, Ayeola (right) presenting award to Governor Mutfwang as Patron of the Cooperative Movement



Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo with the Secretary to Government of the State, Arc. Samuel Nanchang Jatau



Cross section of some Presidents of Cooperative Societies in the state during the courtesy call



Cross section of the CFN President's entourage



Director of Press and Public Affairs (DOPPA) Gyang Bere (left) with the Director of Cooperative Societies, Ayuba Sani Azi and one of the Cooperators



Chief of Staff Government House, Engr. Jeremiah Satmak (right) and the Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Governor's Office, Hon. Alex Kundang



Governor Mutfwang, CFN President, Chief Ayeola, PLASCOFED President/CFN National Treasurer, Hannatu Paul Mershak, Permanent

Politics

2023 Elections: EU report and urgent reforms

The European Election Observation Mission (EU EOM) conducted an extensive three-month-long observation of federal and state elections in Nigeria, held on 25 February and 18 March, 2023. AUSTYN OGANNAH writes.

ACCORDING to their findings, Nigerians demonstrated a commendable commitment to the democratic process at all stages of the election season. However, the EU EOM's analysis revealed enduring systemic weaknesses that call for urgent legal and operational reforms to enhance transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability in Nigeria's electoral system.

Among the problems identified were issues that I have previously addressed in my previous articles. High on the list were ambiguities in the Electoral Law. The EU EOM identified significant ambiguities in the Electoral Law, which largely resulted in confusion and misinterpretation, leaving room for manipulations and grounds for technical misreadings. These ambiguities undermine the consistency and transparency of the electoral process, eroding public trust and confidence in the system.

Another issue raised was the lack of a publicly accountable selection process for INEC commissioners and officials. The absence of such a transparent and accountable selection process for INEC officials raises concerns about the credibility and integrity of the commission, as well as the elections it conducts upon which the destiny of the country depends.

Glo One of the most telling problems, which the EOM did not fail to note, was the lack of real-time publication and access to election results. The Mission noted that the absence of real-time publication and easy public access to election results subtracted from the scale of credibility that could have accrued to the process if it had gone exactly as INEC promised.

This lack of transparency and accessibility hampers trust in the electoral process and inhibits the ability of citizens and stakeholders to verify and validate the accuracy and integrity of the results. The result is the cloud of illegitimacy that seems to hang over the current class of elected officials at different levels.

Of particular concern to me was the issue of insufficient protection for media practitioners during the general polls. It is a truism that media practitioners face challenges and risks while performing their crucial role of ensuring the free flow of information during elections. Insufficient protection measures therefore leave them vulnerable to harassment, intimidation, violence and fatalities, hindering their ability to operate effectively and jeopardising the transparency and accountability of the electoral process.

Without equivocation, the harm meted out to media practitioners physically and mentally, combined with the intimidation from regulatory agencies, who ought to better understand and appreciate the importance of the role of the media, left a lot to be desired.

The EOM noted what it determined as discrimination against women in political life as another issue arising from the elections. Their report held that women in Nigeria faced persistent barriers and discrimination when participating in



political life. This hindered their full and equal participation in the democratic process, resulting in a lack of representation and inclusiveness. Addressing these challenges was therefore crucial to promote gender equality and ensure a more diverse and representative political landscape.

The report also pointed out the widespread impunity, regarding electoral offences, which often seemed as though anyone with enough political capital could more or less get away with as many electoral crimes as possible. The EU EOM observed a lack of effective measures to address reported impunities regarding electoral offences. This was antithetical for functional democracies because ensuring that those responsible for electoral offences face appropriate legal consequences is vital to uphold the rule of law as it deters such offences, and enhances the integrity of the electoral process.

While none of these is novel, as I have had cause to call out a good portion of these observations in my articles previously, the fact-based nature of the EOM findings have opened these problems to a global audience and made it even more crucial to immediately find lasting solutions to them.

In continuation of the electoral reform process that birthed the use of the Bimodal Voter Accreditation System, which gave us the most accurate voter figures we have ever had in Nigeria to the point where some observers inaccurately concluded there was voter apathy due to a perceived "low turnout", we must continue to

effect changes in the system to bring our electoral process to the modern age. To begin, there needs to be a definitive clarification of the electoral law that will forthrightly address the ambiguities in the law through comprehensive reforms. This process should be aimed at ensuring clarity and coherence to prevent misinterpretation and inconsistency in the legal framework of elections. Arguments about 25 per cent of the states in Nigeria AND Abuja, which have occupied some of the appeal process at the Presidential Elections Petitions Tribunal will be a thing of the past as one example of what a definitive clarification of the electoral law will resolve.

There is a grave need to ensure impartiality on the side of the umpire as well and a transparent selection process for INEC officers can address this issue. Therefore, Nigeria must consider the establishment of a publicly accountable and transparent mechanism for the selection and appointment of INEC officers. This will enhance the credibility and integrity of the Commission and imbue it with some of the trust necessary for truly free and fair elections that voters can count on as accurate representations of their choices at the polls.

What was begun as INEC Results Viewing Portal, but which failed drastically when it was most needed for the real-time publication and access to election results must be revived and standardised to the point where it becomes our norm. We have the capacity and manpower to make it work but for the complicity of those bent on compromising the process.

The drive for modernisation of our electoral system must focus on ensuring the real-time publication of election results and provide easy public access to the same. This will

promote transparency, enable verification, and bolster public confidence in the accuracy and integrity of the electoral process. It will reduce occasions of electoral petition tribunals, save cost involved in a multitude of court cases and processes, while ensuring that the intimidation, violence and thuggery around elections are drastically cut across the country.

Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen the law in terms of dealing out even harsher legal consequences for electoral offences. We must enforce stronger legal measures to ensure that electoral offences are met with appropriate consequences that will serve to discourage impunity and uphold the rule of law.

In addition to the problems identified and recommendations, it is imperative to emphasise the crucial role of the judiciary, both the bar and the bench, in the process of improving Nigeria's electoral system and reforms.

The judiciary plays a vital role in upholding the rule of law and ensuring the integrity of the electoral process. Therefore, it is recommended that the judiciary actively engages in the electoral reform process and takes proactive measures to address any legal challenges or loopholes that undermine the credibility of elections. This includes expediting the resolution of electoral disputes, ensuring fair and impartial judgments, and holding accountable those found guilty of electoral offences. By actively participating in the reform process, the judiciary can contribute significantly to strengthening the electoral system and restoring public confidence in the judiciary's role in the electoral process.

Additionally, the security

apparatus in Nigeria must be recognised as an essential stakeholder in the electoral reform process. The security forces play a crucial role in maintaining peace and providing a secure environment for elections to take place. However, there have been instances where security personnel were implicated in electoral malpractices, intimidation, and violence.

It is therefore recommended that the security apparatus take responsibility for any failures or lapses in their conduct during elections and actively engage in reform efforts. This includes enhancing training programmes to ensure professionalism and adherence to ethical standards, investigating and holding accountable those involved in misconduct, and working closely with other stakeholders to maintain a secure and peaceful electoral environment. The active involvement of the security apparatus in the reform process is vital to fostering a safe and conducive atmosphere for free and fair elections.

In conclusion, the final report of the European Election Observation Mission, like other reports by other election monitoring groups, highlights the commendable commitment of Nigerian citizens to the democratic process while emphasising the urgent need for legal and operational reforms to address enduring systemic weaknesses. To address these issues, it is essential to embark on comprehensive electoral reforms.

By implementing the recommended reforms, Nigeria can strengthen its electoral system, promote transparency, inclusiveness, and accountability, and restore public trust in the democratic process.

News

PLSG to partner Republic of Bulgaria

BY PETER TITLE

THE Plateau State Government and the Republic of Bulgaria have agreed to go into partnership in the areas of agriculture, information and communication technology, education and infrastructure development.

This agreement was reached at when the Bulgarian Ambassador to Nigeria, Yankovic V. Yordanov paid a courtesy visit on the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Barrister Caleb Mutfwang recently in Abuja.

Receiving the Ambassador, the Governor expressed readiness of Plateau State Government to collaborate with the Bulgarian companies in the areas of agriculture, technical education, information and communication technology, infrastructural development and scholarships for staff of the Plateau State University (PLASU), Bokkos.

Gov. Mutfwang explained that the gesture would boost the dwindling economic situation of the state and as well upgrade the state university to a reputable citadel of learning.

According to him, Plateau State was endowed with a favourable weather condition which grows different agricultural products. He commended the Bulgarian Government for indicating interest to partner with Plateau State Government in areas of mutual benefits.

He said, "We welcome the kind of partnership that you talked about. I want us to see how we can grow not only food security but also export, so that we can help in bringing tangible income. We will be glad if you introduce us to your companies and to have their profiles so that we also will have our experts to engage them in detailed discussions as to the kind of partnership structure we want".

According to the governor, the government of Plateau would open up as much space as possible to direct foreign investment. He added that he would be happy having Bulgarian companies come on board to do business in the state believing the business would be a win-win situation.

Gov. Mutfwang further posited that such partnership would be beneficial for the Plateau State University, Bokkos. He said the state government would be happy to have the opportunity for collaboration with foreign investors particularly in the areas of technical education and information communication technology where also some lecturers would be sent to Bulgaria for further studies so that they add value to the manpower.

The Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to Nigeria, Yankovic V. Yordanov told the governor that the visit was to cultivate a conducive atmosphere for Bulgaria to



Mutfwang

partner with Plateau State in the area of agriculture.

Amb. Yordanov noted that Jos has the second highest concentration of Bulgarians apart from Lagos. Adding that his country has industries and companies that would turn around Plateau economy which would be for the progress and prosperity of the citizens.

According to the

Ambassador, there are greater areas Plateau would collaborate with the Bulgarian companies to improve the economy of the state. He said further that a team from his country was expected in Nigeria in October, this year hoping to meet with the Plateau Chamber of Commerce to improve small scale businesses in the state.

GOVERNOR Seyi Makinde of Oyo state has declared that he and other prominent leaders in Yoruba land have decided to end the rift between Chief Ayo Adebajo and Chief Reuben Fazoranti.

Makinde made this disclosure during a meeting of Afenifere, a pan-Yoruba sociocultural group.

The meeting was held in Ibadan, the Oyo state capital on Tuesday.

Our correspondent gathered that Adebajo and Fazoranti had been at loggerheads over the leadership of the group.

The two leaders have been trading words over who is the authentic leader of the group in the past few years.

Makinde has however revealed that he and other prominent personalities in Yoruba land have decided to end the crisis between the two leaders.

Makinde while speaking declared that he and some frontline leaders in Afenifere had decided to resolve the differences between the two leaders of the group.

He stated it is now time to begin the process of fostering unity in Yoruba land.

Makinde said, "We are all

Governor moves to reconcile Afenifere opposing leaders

From MUSLIUDEEN ADEBAYO, Ibadan



Makinde

aware of the issues between our two Afenifere leaders; Pa Ayo Adebajo and Pa Reuben Fazoranti.

"Basically, partisan and election issues have come and gone and we are now talking about the unity of Yoruba race. So, these frontline leaders thought it fit to come together to start the process of seeking for

unity in Yorubaland.

"And we know that once our two Babas come together, we will also have the deserved unity in Nigeria. If you put it in proper perspective, whenever Yorubaland is united, Nigeria is united, and whenever we have issues and challenges in Yorubaland, it usually spirals into other parts of Nigeria".

'He is an honourable man of God'

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

APOSTLE Danjuma Musa Gaku of the Global Flame Ministry Jos, has been described as an honourable man of God and a now prophet, whose prophetic messages go with the present happenings as every of his words do really come to pass.

Reverend Akila Yusuf of the House on the Rock Ministry, stated this recently, while delivering a sermon on the occasion marking the apostle's birthday celebration service, held at the Global Flame Ministry Jos, the Plateau State capital.

The reverend said, God always hides His treasure in the trash from the eyes of men because He does not want anybody to know. He allows them to explore the wisdom given to them and triggers the process of discovering God's plans for them.

He emphasised that "People are still where they were because they are still sitting in their comfort zones.

"People discover themselves while in search of who they are and Prophet DMG has discovered himself and he is the 'now' Prophet of Global Flame Ministry and all. When you do not receive the man in him in God, you will not receive the God in him because he is an honourable man.

"He is an honourable man and a man of God whose words do not fall to the ground and his message is not only for Plateau State, but beyond because he operates as you know, beyond content. Apostle DMG is truly a now

prophet and with him, so many revelations will come to pass", he enthused.

However, words of commendation and good wishes poured in from his pastors and members.

Pastor Borngreat Clement of Pneuma Dormain Enugu, said, "My prayers for him is just like the vision God gave him to raise the people of power who will manifest the kingdom. I pray that the kingdom of God through him will be sent to every nooks and crannies of the earth.

"The birthday of a prophet and a father figure and indeed someone that God has

endowed with so much divine energy on the extra, is a remarkable day. Today is really a moment for us as we gathered here to celebrate our father. It is a great day for me and the human race in its entirety!", he enthused.

On his part, Pastor Isaac Mabur, of the Global Flame Ministry Jos, described the celebrant as truly a man of God because his prayer reminds him of some prophet who used to come from the South while as a youth, hence what triggered his looking for him as a treasure he would never wish to miss.

He said, "This is a man of

God that deserves to be celebrated because he has redefined 4th July. I have seen a man committed to kingdom's values. I look forward to a day that the state and the nation will celebrate this man of God. I wish Apostle DMG, my father, a happy birthday", he prayed.

Also celebrating him was Pastor Eunice Donald, of the Global Flame Ministry. She described Apostle DMG as her role model and a father who has been a pacesetter and full of love for his children. "I pray that the oil of God will make more impact with an explosion. Daddy, you have

not seen anything yet. This is tip of an iceberg and a lot will still flow in your life. I celebrate you, daddy!"

Meanwhile, a retired Assistant Inspector General of Police, AIG Joseph Mukan, who is an elder in Global Flame Ministry, said, "after Evangelist Paul Gindiri, evangelism on the Plateau was going down. But thank God for this revival. We pray that God will enrich him and give him more revelations and make the ministry grow globally just as the name implies. We wish him more years in good health, wisdom and more revelations from God".

Rehabilitation center assesses scorecard, seeks collaboration

From
ABBAS GUNGRA, Bauchi

THE Chairman/ proprietor of Bauchi Rehabilitation Center, Malam Kawu Youth Rehabilitation and Orphanage Centre, (MKYROC) Bauchi, has unfolded that it has enrolled Eleven of its students in various courses in some tertiary institutions in the state, while one other student was enrolled for doctoral studies in far away Malaysia.

The centre's boss, Abdullahi Mohammed Tahir, gave a breakdown of the MKYROC students in tertiary institutions, saying 6 are at Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University (ATBU) Bauchi, 5 others with Bauchi State University, Gadau and Two

at the Malikiya College of Medical Sciences, Bauchi.

While briefing news men on the activities of the centre in Bauchi recently, the proprietor expressed concern over the skyrocketing rate of tuition fees at the tertiary institutions. He lamented that the accruable revenue to the centre is nothing to write home about.

Tahir however, noted with delight that should the Bauchi State government partner with the activities of the centre, the foreseeable interventions and donations from International donors and development partners would not only positively propel the development and growth of MKYROC, but would also lend credence to

some of the government's policies and programmes.

Abdullahi Tahir, further disclosed that the centre is now preparing a memo for presentation to the Bauchi State government seeking possible intervention and collaboration towards advancing the course of the centre which has about 300 youths and pupils, 197 of whom are under rehabilitation, while the rest are 'Almajirai' seeking purely knowledge, and the workforce is 27 in number.

Tahir disclosed that the centre spends over N400, 000 monthly on salaries of staff that include security and cooks. He also pointed out that in the 17 years of its existence, the centre registered 1, 443 mostly for

rehabilitation influenced by drugs and substance abuse, most of whom have successfully been restored to good condition.

He explained that of all the 19 northern states, only Kwara, Kogi, Kebbi and Benue that don't have pupil (s) or youth at the centre. He added that the centre also serves neighbouring countries that include Ghanaian - 1, Chadians - 2, Cameroonians - 4, Nigeriens - 7, Guinea Conakry 1, and Benin Republic.

The proprietor also distributed one hundred mosquito nets to the students, saying the mosquito nets were donated to the center by the father of one of the students from Niger Republic.

News

Tribunal receives 2 witnesses

BY EZEKIEL DONTINNA

THE Plateau State Governorship Election Tribunal sitting at the High Court Jos, has received two witnesses and duplicates of voter's register for over eight hundred and twenty-two (822) Polling Units in ninety-two wards of fifteen (15) Local Government Areas of as subpoena in a petition filed by Dr. Nentawe Yilwatda Goshwe (APC) against INEC, PDP and Caleb Mutfwang.

A director of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Abuja, Festus Aisien, delivered these documents Monday at the tribunal following an order by the Governorship Election Tribunal Committee last Friday to submit the duplicates of voter's register as evidence before the tribunal.

Presenting the documents, the director said he has brought two "Gana-Must-Go" bags containing duplicates of

voter's register for 822 polling units of 95 wards in fifteen (15) out of seventeen (17) local government areas of the state with the receipt of payment made.

However, Counsel to the 1st Respondent (INEC), Barr. CD Gyang, suggested that the documents should be marked as presented to avoid rising objections that may delay the proceedings of this hearing because they have limited time to handle this petition.

On his part, Counsel to the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Emeka Etiaba, SAN, raised concern that the petitioners did not follow the documents to mark them accordingly before bringing them to the tribunal to avoid unnecessary delay of the proceedings.

Responding, Counsel to the petitioner, Ade said, the documents were requested by the tribunal and they have no jurisdiction to temper or highjack the subpoena or rather, receive

on behalf of the tribunal and submit them as subpoena.

In the same vein, one Emmanuel Nannil, of Batkilang Polling Unit who was APC Returning Officer of Zamko Ward, Langtang-North LGA, has testified before the tribunal that there was no collation of results because of over voting at Zamko Central (EC8 009) and the result was cancelled, but wondered how the document given to him at the tribunal was indicating contrary.

Also before the tribunal, was one Nanbol Nimmyel Nwale, of Langtang-North LGA who was the APC Agent at Zamko Central Code 009. He raised an alarm that the result sheet was forged because he did not sign the result due to over voting but that the document presented to him to verify has the name of one Gampyal Pyenzai as APC agent who signed the result sheet instead of him, the authentic APC agent.

Bauchi NBA inaugurates new executives

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi

THE Bauchi State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has inaugurated its newly elected executive officers to run its affairs for the next two years starting from July 2023 to 2025.

In his speech after the inauguration at the High Court No 1 Bauchi, the chairman of the occasion, Justice Lamido Kabir Umar, congratulated the newly elected officers of the association. He urged them to carry all members along in the interest and progress of the association that will make members happy to be associated with their leadership.

While calling on the new executive officers to justify the confidence reposed in them, Justice Lamido Kabir used the occasion to appeal to all members of the association to join hands and support the new executive for the good of the association. He also wished them well.

The immediate past chairman of the association in the state, Barrister Jibrin S. Jibrin, appreciated members of the association for giving him the opportunity to serve them for the past two years. He said he had enjoyed a good working relationship with all the members which was responsible for achieving what he had achieved during his tenure.

He therefore called on members to support the new executive officers of



Mohammed

the association in order to make their fruitful contributions for the upliftment of NBA in the state and the country as a whole.

Earlier in his inaugural speech, the newly elected Chairman, Dr. Ibrahim Danjuma described the NBA as the matchless professional association in Nigeria and the largest and most vibrant Bar association in Africa. He also commended the senior members of this branch both from public and private bar.

The NBA chairman promised not to take this position lightly or for granted. He pointed out that "I fully understand the responsibilities that you all have bestowed upon me, the great opportunity you have provided us, with your votes and support, is inexpressive. We feel deeply grateful and admired".

Dr. Ibrahim further explained, "Whether or not you voted for me in the just concluded election of our dear branch, I want you to

know that I am dedicated to serving you. When we work together, not as S.G. Idrees or U.B. Babayo Camp, but as members of one and united branch. I know that we can accomplish great things during these uncertain times".

"I must not fail to pay special tribute to my co-contestants for the office of the chairman. The participation of three of us was a very keenly contested race and any one of us could have ended up, fittingly, as chairman of our dear branch. I want to use this medium to extend my hand of friendship to both of them to join hands with me in working for the elevation and growth of our branch. I shall persist, undeterred, in this endeavor until success is achieved by the grace of God".

The chairman thanked members of the electoral committee for a job well done and for their patience and cooperation throughout the election period.

Highlights of the occasion as reported by our correspondent in Bauchi was the taking of Oath of Office by the newly elected executive committee members.

The exco is made of Dr. Ibrahim Danjuma as Chairman, Barrister Auwal Ibrahim as Secretary, Barrister Adamu Tanko Jibrin, PRO and Barr. Muhammad Sani Umar respectively among others.



This descent to chaos must stop

SINCE the return to democracy, there seems to be some deliberate efforts by some people who do not mean well for the country to put spanners in the wheels of the development and growth of the country. Conflict merchants and agents of destruction have taken advantage of the freedom of expression and choice to visit mayhem and pain on the society. This must not continue. Though there were pockets of upheavals before democracy was entrenched, these were not as rampant as they are at the moment. Our leaders must therefore, figure out ways and means to arrest this descent to chaos.

The Niger Delta region which used to be the hotbed of agitations for the cleaning up of the destruction done to the environment suddenly paled out in significance when compared to what is happening in other parts of the country. First, were the activities of the Boko Haram which transformed to kidnappings for ransom and now the complete sacking and annihilation of communities from their ancestral lands for reasons that are not very clear.

Some have alluded to the crisis as farmers/ herders while some have said these crises are planned, deliberate and a scheme to take over land for extraneous reasons and some others have said the destruction being done are political. Whatever the reasons, actions must be taken by our leaders to stem the tides and restore sanity to the society. Democracy is supposed to give voice to the minority and not to muscle them to silence as the majority have their way. It is supposed to offer opportunities not limit them and open up space for growth not constrict this space.

Not a single day passes by without stories being told of one form of molestation or the other being perpetrated on the people. And government seems to be helpless. It appears Nigerians are being left to their whims. It seems the dictum 'everyone for himself and God for all of us' is fast becoming a reality. If you are not strong, you are

likely to be exposed to all manner of despicable treatment. If you do not resort to self-help, then the country cannot accommodate you. There is no room for the weak and the essence of government is, therefore, lost.

Agitations have become the order and if you cannot tag along you are left to be consumed by the beast. Where are we headed to? Regional militias have become the order. Amotekun floated by the South West and the Eastern Security Network floated by IPOB and Ebubeagu formed by the South East governors and a whole lot of others have become the order. Yet security is a big issue. Our security agencies seem to have been inundated. They are overwhelmed. They cannot protect us as what we hear on daily basis are not pleasing to the ears at all. Qasi armies have taken over the ungoverned spaces in our country and we run the risk of becoming a failed state if nothing quick and drastic is done.

Sadly, we have not been able to manage our diversity to our advantage. Nepotism, ethnicity,

regionalism and religiosity have become our poster signs that are gradually singing the dirge for our union. Fairness has taken flight in all that we do as a nation. We pander to these very destructive tendencies and allow merit suffer. We cannot develop in a situation like this. When people feel unfairly treated, they find means of ventilating their grievances and when nothing is done to rebuild confidence, then there is a gradual slide into something else.

America, the country after which we have modeled our democracy is more culturally diverse than Nigeria. It is bigger in size than Nigeria yet it has been able to harness its diversity to its advantage. It has been able to rein in those extremes that our leaders have been grappling with since independence. Indeed, it is the most culturally diverse nation on the face of the earth yet the most developed. And because of its experiences, Nigeria would and should have been able to navigate some of the landmines planted by diversity but the country has scarcely and practically learnt nothing and we seem to be on our way to perdition.

And Plateau is faced by so much danger

After a period of reprieve, things are beginning to go awry again. Plateau is faced with so much destruction being unleashed by the agents of those who do not mean well for the state. The happenings in parts of the state are not palatable at all. We must however, unite to present a strong and virile front.

We should not allow space for the enemies of our state to take advantage of. Whether we like it or not, we do not have another state which we can call our own. We must therefore work to not only bring peace to the state but ensure that our actions attract the goodwill of others to us. Plateau must not be allowed to descent into chaos and become Hobbesian state where no laws exist but one that lives up to its sobriquet of being the Home of Peace and Tourism.

“ Not a single day passes by without stories being told of one form of molestation or the other being perpetrated on the people. And government seems to be helpless. It appears Nigerians are being left to their whims. It seems the dictum 'everyone for himself and God for all of us' is fast becoming a reality. If you are not strong, you are likely to be exposed to all manner of despicable treatment. If you do not resort to self-help, then the country cannot accommodate you. There is no room for the weak and the essence of government is, therefore, lost. ”

News

Communities in Gombe receive cheques for NG-CARES projects.

By WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

THE Gombe State Agency for Community and Social Development (GSACSD) has commenced the community and group project launch and presentation of first tranche of cheques to about thirty communities and women groups across the state.

Making the presentation, the General Manager of GSACSD, Malam Haruna Ahmed Imam, commended Governor Muhammad InuwaYahaya for the prompt release of funds for the execution of the programme as well as support to the agency and other NG-CARES platforms.

According to him, Gombe was already in the second phase of the programme, a development he attributed to the governor's support.

He explained that work had already begun in all the communities in their various areas of needs which include Primary Health Care Centres, classroom blocks, boreholes and nutrition interventions.

The Gombe State Coordinator, Cares Unit, Mr Michael Habila, who was part of the team, explained that Nigeria Covid-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) programme, is a Federal Government intervention supported by World Bank.



Inuwa

He said it is intended to cushion the effect of Covid-19 on the poor and vulnerable. He added that the state further domesticated the programme to Gombe State Covid-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (GO-CARES).

During the project launch which was performed in all the benefitting communities, members of the Gombe State House of Assembly present, Alhaji Mohammed KabirKuri, Alhaji AdamuPata and SiddiBuba whose constituencies will benefit

from the projects said the interventions will in no small measure, meet the needs of their people.

Emir of Nafada, Alhaji Muhammadu DadumHamza, that of Funakaye, AlhajiYakubu Mohammed Kwairanga the 3rd and the Emir of Akko, Alhaji Umar Mohammed Atiku who was represented by Cigarin Akko and District Head of Barunde, Alhaji Idris Mohammed Atiku were full of happiness and gratitude to the state governor for fulfilling his campaign promises.

Man cuts off friend's two hands

From **ABBAS GUNGURA, Bauchi**

A 32 years old man, Auwwal Usman was sentenced to 2 years in the Bauchi Correctional Center by Chief Magistrate Court CMC number12 presided over by HarunaAbdulmuminiMamma n, for cutting the two hands of his friend with machete.

Inspector Yusuf Musa, who is the prosecutor, earlier told the court that the suspect, Auwwal Usman of Dogon Ruwa village Ari in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State had a misunderstanding with Sabo Abduwa, which resulted to physical fight. In the course of the fight, Auwwal brought a machete and cut off his friend's two hands. One hand fell down while the other one was hanging lamely.

Police prosecutor said Abduwa was rushed to General Hospital Ningi where the hand that was hanging was amputated to save his life because of the serious injuries he sustained as a result of the deep cut, which is contrary to section 241 of the Penal Code.

The suspect admitted the charges against him and pleaded for leniency from the court being the first offense he has ever committed.

In his judgment, the presiding Chief Magistrate, Mamman said the court was

convinced that the victim lost his two hands as a result of the heinous act of the suspect Auwwal, which will render the victim disable.

Mamman sentenced him to two years in correctional

service without an option of fine for causing grievous hurt contrary to section 241 of the Penal Code and ordered him to pay 150,000 medical expenses incurred by the victim.

Inuwa hails emergence of Tinubu as ECOWAS Chair

WILLIE ATTAH, Gombe

Africa to work together towards a common goal of peace, prosperity, and progress.

According to the Governor, "Your emergence as the Chairman of ECOWAS is a testament to your visionary

leadership and your unwavering commitment to the promotion of peace, security, and economic prosperity in the region.

"I have no doubt that under your leadership, ECOWAS will continue to play a vital role in

promoting regional integration, economic growth, and sustainable development.

"As we face the challenges of the 21st century, it is more important than ever that leaders work together to address the complex issues that affect our countries.

"Your election as Chairman of ECOWAS provides a unique opportunity to bring the member states together to address these challenges and to work towards a brighter future for all of us", the statement concluded.

Gov Kefas declares free education in Taraba

From **VICTOR GAI, Jalingo**

TARABA State Governor, Dr. Agbu Kefas recently declared free education in all state government primary and secondary schools with

effect from the next academic session.

Kefas made the

declaration while on an assessment tour of primary and secondary schools in Wukari Local Government Area. He declared that from the next academic session, primary and secondary education in Taraba would be free.

The governor also noted that his administration would immediately embark on massive renovation of most of the schools to make them meet the demands of the modern day education.

"Let me announce to you that by next academic session, the state government will take responsibility of the school fees and all of you will attend school free of charge.

"We will continue to support you to have access to qualitative education for

brighter future of our state," he said.

The Zonal Director of Education, Mr Daniel Nuhu, lauded Governor Kefas for making out time to personally assess the condition of public schools in the state.

Nuhu noted that the free education and renovation of primary and secondary schools would go a long way in turning around the fortunes of the less privileged in the state by granting them equal access to quality education.

THE NIGERIA STANDARD reports that Governor Kefas had recently declared a state of emergency on primary and secondary education and slashed the school fees of Taraba University and that of College of Nursing and Midwifery Jalingo by 50 per cent.

Army provides free medical care to community

By **DORCAS PANKYES Gamaje**

THE 6 Division of Nigerian Army has recently provided free medical services to Kpitem community in Tai Local Government Area Council of River State.

In a statement issued by Lieutenant Colonel Iweha Ikedichi, Ag Deputy Director, Army Public Relations, 6 Division Nigerian Army, he said that the mission of the team was humanitarian. These are all part of activities lined up to commemorate the 2023 Nigerian Army Day Celebration (NADCEL), he explained.

According to the statement, 6 Division Nigerian Army had undertaken a quiet reconnaissance across the Local Government Area Council and discovered an almost abandoned primary health care center in Kpitem community.

The medical outreach team was robust; consulting, laboratory, pharmacy, and optometrics departments. All of these were manned adequately with drugs, eye glasses of different prescriptions, and reagents for laboratory investigation. Special counseling sessions for HIV and hepatitis, as well as family planning, were equally on hand.

The General Officer Commanding (GOC) 6 Division, Nigerian Army and Land Component Commander, Joint Task Force (South South) Operation Delta Safe, Major General Jamal Abdussalam, thanked the royal father, Sir King



Lagbaja

Samuel LA Nnee, the Gberemene of Tai Kingdom, for his support over the years to the military in the conduct of operations.

The GOC who was represented by the Commander 6 Division Garrison, Brigadier General Eddy Effiong sought for continuous support of the Tai kingdom and by extension the Ogooni nation.

In his response, the Gberemene Tai Kingdom thanked the Division for choosing his community as the venue for the medical outreach programme. He expressed appreciation for the role of the military in bringing about peace in the community. He particularly eulogized the sacrificial nature of military service and pledged the community's support.

In his remarks, the GOC appreciated the good people of Kpitem for their collaboration over the years. He called for continuous synergy and cooperation of the people.

The GOC made donations of 2 oxygen cylinders and accessories, Nebulizer, Pulse oximeter and Biochemistry analyzers. He expressed the hope that the equipments would be put to good use and asked for feedback on the performance of the equipments.

The Chief Nursing Officer, MrsMueleNwana, expressed appreciation for the donation of the equipments to the primary health care center. She stated that with the donation, the center is in a better state to better respond to the medical needs of the community.

Feature

The exit of a fulfilled matriarch Mak'yan Wannang

In this glowing tribute, permit me to start with a disclaimer that I have never met Late matriarch, Rabeccah Mak'yan Wannang in person but her children Mrs Josephine Bako, Mrs Martina Dakur, Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) Alex Wannang, Engineer. Christophe Wannang and Professor Noel Wannang who are touching lives everywhere and making huge waves in their respective areas of calling, write: AYUBA, YILGAK'HA.

WITHOUT sounding immodest, today in Plateau and Nigeria, the Patriarchal name Wannang does not need any introduction because of the great exploits the Wannangs are making in many fields of human endeavour both within and outside Plateau State, that is, Nigeria and the world. These ones are highly resourceful people whose names can only be heard for good reasons!

The main thesis of this tribute is that a tree cannot bear good fruits if it is not good itself. With the great vibes and works I have seen in her children, it can be said, without mincing words, that Late matriarch Rabeccah Mak'yan Wannang was a great profile in good parenting.

Good parenting is about credible nurturing and cultivation of good virtues in a child or children. It is a critical catalyst that is lacking in most families which has caused hydra-headed problems in many societies, nations and the world today.

All social ills (drug abuse, rape, cultism, examination malpractices, prostitution); criminal activities such as armed robbery, cyber crime, murder; arson, violent conflicts and even wars that the world is battling today, drive from breakdown in the fundamentals of family units which Late Mak'yan who peacefully died on Monday, July 3, 2023 creditably managed hers at wow level, that is, excellent plus standard, to say the least!

Through credible parenting, Late Mak'yan has given Nigeria a tested and proven security expert, AIG Alex Wannang, to help Nigeria and, by extension, the world to maintain law and order through fighting of crime and criminality. You need to meet



Wannang

this rare gem to know the stuff he is made of courtesy the foundational starter fixes of the departed Matriarch.

Late Mak'yan also bequeathed to the world a world class pharmacist in Prof. Noel Wannang. There are professors but there is a professor. Professor Noel is an exceptionally brilliant thorough breed who has inspired and motivated countless pharmaceutical students in University of Jos. He is part of the phenomenal breakthroughs which has been made in pharmaceutical industries in Nigeria and has contributed greatly to quality control in this sphere in the country. In fact, the story of up coming generations of pharmists who have the potentials to transform the

Pharmaceutical industries in Nigeria will not be completed without a mention of professor Wannang!

I wished you had met Late Engineer Martin Wannang to appreciate Late Mak'yan's prowess in parenting. The late Eng. had speciality in Water Engineering and died as Director of Works with the Local Government Service Commission, Plateau State. Then, we have Christopher Wannang, another great Mak'yan legacy. He is Building Engineer who works with the Federal Ministry of Works, Abuja, with speciality in construction management.

Both Josephine and Marina are educationists. Josephine retired as the Principal of Federal Govt College, Zuru,

Kebbi State in North Eastern Nigeria while Martina was Principal in several schools in Plateau State and retired as a Permanent Secretary with the Plateau State Government. This further confirmed how the Mak'yans extended have continue to touch lives across the length and breadth of Nigeria.

As can be seen, Late matriarch Rabeccah Mak'yan's Midas touch cannot be contested. She was the proverbial goose that laid golden eggs. Indeed, her womb is exceptionally blessed and the breast her children soaked was pure gold. She taught her children the way of success in human relations, intellectualism, professionalism and, more importantly, the love of God who is the sufficiency of all mortals!

There are no liabilities in the Wannang dynasty. When I received the news of the demise of this Late matriarch Rebeccah, my reaction after consoling the children which I have encountered on different occasions is simple: "Seeing how far you, the children have come, I can say with all confidence that mama is not dead but living in the exceptionally productive offsprings she left behind!"

Matriarch Mak'yan is gone but she is here with us yet. She is here through here

resourceful children and through her children's children. This matriarch was a legacy in uncommon blessing to the world courtesy child bearing and nurturing in the ways of cherishable virtues and values.

The children of the deceased enjoyed their Amazon mother like no other. The evidence of this enviable mother-children bonding was expressed in the text of the burial notification as follows: "Mama, it is our wish that you live forever but it is a painful gain that heavens will celebrate your coming." It was a family of lovebird and losing the strategic modeller, stabiliser, encourager and energiser can be demoralising or, at least, an eye flipping experience but can God be questioned? Not all!

Anyway, death is part of the rhythms of life. There is time for everything: A time to smile and a time to mourn. As many as our opportunities to smile, so also are our possibilities to mourn too. This means that as long as men live, chances are that they will experience both. Glory be to God who is the author and finisher of our faith. He gave Late Mak'yan Wannang but He takes too. Thanks be to the giver and taker for the benefit of having her as a mother and channel of blessing to humanity!

Thank God, also, for longevity. At 92, Late Mak'yan was about a century old sojourning here on earth. Only a few had such rarest privilege; considering that the 2022 life expectancy which is the most recent in Nigeria is 55.44 per cent. It is heart warning to note that the departed Amazon had a colourful and beautiful page here on earth and we are hoping she is transiting into another eventful life in the great beyond.

This moment is a mourning period but, for all intents and purposes, a celebration one. My humble prayer, therefore is that oh Lord, bless the world, Nigeria and Plateau with many more of Wannangs. Let Late Matriarch Rabeccah Mak'yan Wannang who has been established to be springboard of resourcefulness continue to smile in restful mood as the world and the family she serves with greater distinction commits her to mother earth at family compound Vel, Pankshin, come Thursday, July 12, 2023!

I wished you had met Late Engineer Martin Wannang to appreciate Late Mak'yan's prowess in parenting. The late Eng. had speciality in Water Engineering and died as Director of Works with the Local Government Service Commission, Plateau State. Then, we have Christopher Wannang, another great Mak'yan legacy. He is Building Engineer who works with the Federal Ministry of Works, Abuja, with speciality in construction management. Both Josephine and Marina are educationists. Josephine retired as the Principal of Federal Govt College, Zuru, Kebbi State in North Eastern Nigeria while Martina was Principal in several schools in Plateau State and retired as a Permanent Secretary with the Plateau State Government. This further confirmed how the Mak'yans extended have continue to touch lives across the length and breadth of Nigeria.

Foreign News

US says missing GOP whistleblower is arms trafficker, Chinese agent

THE Justice Department on Monday unsealed charges against the co-director of a Maryland think tank, alleging he acted as an illegal arms broker and unregistered agent for the Beijing government while also seeking to help China obtain Iranian oil in violation of U.S. sanctions.

Gal Luft, a dual U.S. and Israeli citizen, is accused of recruiting and paying a former high-ranking U.S. Government official – and advisor to then president-elect Donald Trump -- on behalf of principals based in China in 2016 without registering in the U.S. as a foreign agent as federal law requires.

The 57-year-old fugitive has become a key figure in Republican-led corruption investigations into President Joe Biden, accusing him, son Hunter Biden and other family members of having improper financial arrangements with the China-controlled energy company CEFC. The White House and Biden family representatives have issued broad denials of such claims of corruption as being false and without merit.

The eight-count indictment unsealed Monday charges Luft with offenses related to willfully failing to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act, or FARA,



Biden

arms trafficking, Iranian sanctions violations and making false statements to federal agents. He was arrested on February 17 in Cyprus based on the U.S. charges but subsequently fled after being released on bail while extradition proceedings were pending and remains a fugitive, the Justice Department said in a news release late Monday announcing his indictment.

Damian Williams, the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, said Luft "engaged in multiple, serious criminal schemes."

"He subverted foreign agent

registration laws in the United States to seek to promote Chinese policies by acting through a former high-ranking U.S. Government official; he acted as a broker in deals for dangerous weapons and Iranian oil; and he told multiple lies about his crimes to law enforcement," Williams said in the Justice Department statement. "As the charges unsealed today reflect, our Office will continue to work vigorously with our law enforcement partners to detect and hold accountable those who surreptitiously attempt to perpetrate malign foreign influence campaigns here in the United States."

Sweden hails historic step as Turkey backs Nato bid

THIS is a historic moment for Sweden, which has spent the past year fighting hard to get accepted into Nato.

The Nordic country previously embraced wartime neutrality for more than 200 years, but applied for membership last May as part of efforts to improve security and stability in northern Europe, following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, until late on Monday night, Turkey had been blocking Sweden's application.

Turkey argued Sweden was giving refuge to Kurdish militants, and needed to do more to crack down on rebel groups like the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which it considers a terrorist organisation. The EU and US have also designated the PKK as a terrorist group.

Like any of Nato's 31 member countries, Turkey has the power to block new nations from joining the group.

The outcome of crunch talks with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is being seen as a major win for Sweden's right-wing Prime Minister Ulf Kristersson.

While Sweden's initial application to join Nato was made by Mr Kristersson's Social Democrat predecessor, Magdalena Andersson, he has made securing membership a key

foreign policy priority since taking over as Swedish leader in October.

He told Sweden's public TV network SVT that he and his team had "worked very hard" to address Turkey's concerns about terrorism, and that an agreement had been reached after being allowed to showcase their efforts.

"I think we got a chance to also present and show what we have been doing for a long time, and that it is also bearing fruit," he said. "And I think that together with good support from the work of other countries, all in all, we got it together."

Sweden introduced tougher anti-terrorism laws in June, making it illegal to give financial or logistical help to terrorist groups.

At the end of last week, that legislation was put into action for the first time, when a **Swedish court jailed a Kurdish man** for crimes including attempting to finance terrorism, and told him he would be deported afterwards.

Sweden has also resumed arms exports to Turkey.

"We have taken seriously their very legitimate demand that every country that enters the alliance should contribute to additional security," the prime minister told SVT.

After being photographed beaming in Vilnius on Monday, Mr Kristersson

admitted on Swedish public radio that he had enjoyed a quick celebratory beer "with the whole gang" in a conference room after the talks.

This is also a major win for Turkey.

As well as having Ankara's security concerns addressed, Sweden has promised actively to support Turkey's efforts to join the European Union, and "step up economic co-operation".

The entire process has given President Erdogan a huge platform on the global political stage, and plenty of questions remain about what kind of assurances may have been given behind closed doors.

Now that Turkey has ended its opposition to Sweden joining Nato, the US has agreed to fresh talks about Turkey buying F-16 fighter jets.

Some observers including Wolfgang Hansson, a commentator for Sweden's largest tabloid Aftonbladet, argue that Sweden has potentially been used as a bargaining chip in a much bigger game being played by the Turkish leader.

Public support for Sweden's Nato application rose sharply following Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and the issue has remained high on the public agenda over the past year.

"Media coverage of all the twists and turns has been

THE Swedish PM Ulf Kristersson has told the BBC that they have convinced Turkey that they are committed to fighting terrorism in cooperation with the country for the long term.

When asked what made Turkey change its mind, he said "the whole package."

Speaking to Razia Iqbal on Newshour on the World Service, Kristersson said, "We are not doing this simply because we want to become Nato members, but also because we want to stick to it after becoming members so this is a very long term commitment."

Kristersson said that Sweden long had problems with Kurdish militant activities "perhaps financing terrorism that has been directed towards Turkey"

He talked about the demonstrations of pro-Kurdish groups and Quran burnings, calling some of them "things that are awful but still lawful".

"I've told Erdogan that everything being done and said in Sweden is not at all approved by the Swedish government in any way."

On Turkey's request for

intense, so many people have followed this closely, trying to interpret Erdogan's every new move," says Paul Levin, director of Stockholm University Institute for Turkish Studies, who has followed the developments closely.

Yet Sweden's now increasingly imminent membership won't be popular with everyone.

According to a May survey by pollster Novus, 38% of Swedes remain either against or unsure about Sweden joining Nato.

Some critics have questioned Sweden's ideological shift, raising concerns about how it will affect the country's global image after decades as an international mediator. There are also concerns about the impact of negotiating with Turkey, a nation with a questionable human rights record.

But for Nato supporters Sweden's membership is essential because it will offer the country additional security guarantees during a volatile period in European politics.

Meanwhile Sweden's membership will also give Nato additional resources.

Although it does not have a large military, it has re-introduced conscription and boosted defence spending in recent years, with a plan to raise its military budget to 2% of Sweden's GDP by 2026.

The whole package made Turkey change its mind - Swedish PM

reform in the customs union and to visa regulation, Kristersson

said that Sweden would promote a closer cooperation between Turkey and the EU.



Kristersson

UGANDA'S Anatoli Kirigwajjo is the founder and CEO of Yunga, a local digital security network that enhances neighbour-to-neighbour safety. He was recently awarded "The Africa Prize for Engineering Innovation" dedicated to developing African innovators.

Yunga works by connecting neighbours to one other and to police within a 20km-radius - through a physical device, smartphone app or SMS service, providing security at a low cost.

The award, founded by the Royal Academy of Engineering in the UK, is granted after participants go through an

eight-month period of training and mentoring.

"I developed Yunga after losing \$1,300 worth of assets in a break-in, with little chance of the thieves being caught. We hope that with our household networks, communities will become harder targets for criminals. This will ensure safety, which in turn will create the space for economic activities to thrive," says Mr Kirigwajjo.

So far, Yunga has prevented over 180 cases of community crime and they have plans to expand to additional African markets like Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.



The innovation is based on the "10,000 household model" - a traditional practice where people use drums to alert their community to an emergency

Feature

Order and stability: A case for Nigeria's youth

By ABIODUN KOMOLAFE

GOING forward, President Tinubu wants to fly in the air at 1 a.m. He wants all the youth fixed. But for these and others to become a reality, order and stability must take preeminence. Incontestably, order and stability are remedies for so many things, most especially, development. Till tomorrow, there exists a deep argument about the adequacy or otherwise of the definition of development because it's not the bigness of a small thing, but an all-encompassing advancement of a phenomenon or a plethora of such phenomena. Even sceptics would also worry about these essential requirements for nation-building. As fate would have it, the military that used to have it so good has also been touched. The security architecture of Nigeria has been duplicated in so many centres, such that they may look innocent, but then, they are problematic. So, Project Nigeria remains exposed unless her architectural profile is urgently redrawn. The more reason people in government must keep thinking, for it is not yet 'uhuru'.

Tinubu needs to be abreast of the state of security in the Nigerian nation. So far, what has improved about the country's safety profile? The restive situation of Nigeria's youth: can it be taken for granted? For the couple of weeks that this administration has been in place, the youth have not been seen to be agitating for anything, not even at the motor parks; but does that mean that all is well? Can the situation be likened to the peace of the graveyard? Or is it that of the youth temporarily suspending their sorrow? Or the gathering storm of a sort? It is, therefore, left for the government not to take the presence of the multitudinous population of the youth in a vibrant society for granted, for it will be an error to suppose any intangible similarities among them. Where the kids – especially the marked proportion of the population that claims to be youth – are disorganised, poor and broke, and with no vision, trouble is imminent. It is a sure road to double disadvantage and cruelty, both ways; and one cannot blame anybody.

Already, too many people are outside the excessively small, cagy arrangement of people and structure because the people are understudied and numbered. If nothing is done, the sanctity of Nigeria's data, in terms of population, will remain laughable for centuries to come. What do I mean? Unless the youth are taken care of, all the other aspects of advancement, in terms of security and development, are a waste of time and resources. So, fix security and associated social networking and all other things shall be added to the government. Notable among them is the unbridled ability or agility of the youth, which will bring to bear things that are of times and seasons globally, unhindered.

An adventure into the trajectory of the functional flow of public administration and specific political antecedents in Nigeria, will confirm that ours is a society without the collective organic vision, but then, the hearts of those who use blackmail as a means of economic survival, tell us a great story about how politics is played in this part of the world. That's why 'accidental politicians' try to fool the illuminated majority, making use of the same principles of democracy to justify their allegations and expectations. What is more worrisome is that Nigerians are so disoriented with regard to the basic



understanding and essence of communal togetherness. If the rule of law is weak or jaundiced, then society is equally jaundiced. It means one has to resort to self-help to achieve some things, and that's not good enough for a country that is aspiring to become developed.

The dear country is also acutely overawed by infrastructural and energy challenges. It is, therefore, appropriate for Tinubu's government to get futuristic, so that potentials can be realised. Unlike the past where priorities were rashly misplaced without recourse to conscience, this administration must rush its ideas and the good things it has for Nigeria. Let it be that the president has a legacy that is already bequeathed to him to do all that is constitutionally possible, to pull Nigeria from the brink.

Any man who wants to hear the truth, the lies and the funny sides of the Nigerian nation should visit a newsstand and the social media market, and he will not be disappointed. Even if they end up

giving the contracts to their wives and concubines, let men from the country's policy think tanks visit these informal structures, which should not be ignored and they will discover that the troubles remain the same!

The anger and feasibly known causes of anger of the youth are now many more than ever before. Since #EndSARS, institutions have not stopped turning out graduates, who, in the understanding of many Nigerians, are mature enough and are entitled to get jobs. That fire remains unquenched, not even by the new government. To this extent, the joy and expectation of every graduate, who has acquired one skill or another, are dashed immediately after he or she is out of the polytechnic or university because the little window through which he or she was previously assured is fast closing.

Nigeria's youth are determined to strive for greater heights, but they have serious obstructions from their rulers. What they really need are

enabling environments, sustainable policies, enhancement orders, security assurances and sincerity of purpose. What they require is genuine leadership, not rulership. Unfortunately, events in our recent past have made most of the youth become so agitated that some were labelled rebellious. Recycling the same old and unproductive systems and personalities has also built cynical orientations among them. But the truth is that no sane person likes to settle for violence as a way of life.

What are we saying? Poverty doesn't know the complexion or flags of political parties. Therefore, any employment of the youth will serve more than the family of the employed. Apart from being the bringer of hope for the forgotten lot, it will also serve as hope for the wretched portion of the youth. We need to bear in mind that the uneducated and the low-educated youth are in the majority. They even form the bulk of the voting public. In any case, the ambassadorial members of the Tinubu workforce – appointees like Zacchaeus Adedeji

(45 years; Special Adviser, Revenue), Olu Verheijen (46 years; Special Adviser, Energy) and John Uwajumogu (46 years; Special Adviser, Industry, Trade and Investment), has rekindled the hope in our recent past have made most of the youth become so agitated that some were labelled rebellious. Recycling the same old and unproductive systems and personalities has also built cynical orientations among them. But the truth is that no sane person likes to settle for violence as a way of life.

May the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world, grant us peace in Nigeria!

Komolafe, is from Ijebu-Jesa, Osun State, Nigeria (ijebujesa@yahoo.co.uk)

EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Health

Why people leave abusive relationships



WHEN many people hear that someone is in an unhealthy or abusive relationship, their first question is, "Why don't they leave?" If you've never been through an abusive relationship, this sort of response might seem logical. Just throw the deuces up and move on with your life – right? But here's the thing – when it comes to relationship abuse, it's never as easy as "just leaving." We're here to tell you why.

Leaving an abusive relationship is hard for many reasons. Here are 11 of the many reasons that someone in an unhealthy or toxic situation might stay with their partner.

1. Society normalizes unhealthy behavior so people may not understand that their relationship is abusive.

When you think that unhealthy or abusive behaviors are normal, it's hard to identify your relationship as abusive and therefore there's

no reason to seek help.

2. Emotional abuse destroys your self-esteem, making it feel impossible to start fresh.

Oftentimes, people in emotionally abusive relationships may not understand that they are being abused because there's no violence involved. Also, many will dismiss or downplay emotional abuse because they don't think it's as bad as physical abuse. It's hard for those in abusive relationships to leave their partners after they've continuously been made to feel worthless and like there's no better option for themselves.

3. The Cycle of Abuse: after every abusive incident comes a make-up honeymoon phase.

Often when an abusive situation happens, it is followed by the abuser doing something nice or apologizing and promising that they will

never do it again. This makes their partner minimize the original abusive behavior.

4. It's dangerous to leave. Like, VERY dangerous.

Many times, leaving an abusive relationship is not only emotionally difficult, but can also be life-threatening. In fact, the most dangerous time in an abusive relationship is post break-up. Women are 70 times more likely to be killed in the weeks after leaving their abusive partner than at any other time during the relationship.¹

The best way to protect yourself if you are in an abusive relationship is to create a safety plan. For help creating one, check out our [My Plan App](#).

5. It's not just hard to breakup safely, it's also hard to escape the cycle of control.

People in abusive relationships often attempt to

break up with their partner several times before the break up sticks. On average, a person in an abusive relationship will attempt to leave 7 times before finally leaving for good. People in abusive relationships often attempt to break up with their partner several times before the break up sticks. On average, a person in an abusive relationship will attempt to leave 7 times before finally leaving for good.²

6. Society perpetuates a ride-or-die mindset.

Those in unhealthy or abusive relationships might stay with their partner or get back together after a break up because they feel pressure to not give up, forgive and forget or "ride it out." Pop culture glamorizes being a "ride-or-die" for your friends and partner, making people out to be in the wrong for leaving their partner. And while being

be in a perfect relationship, and some cultures and social media only accentuate this pressure.

10. Fear of how others will react.

People in abusive relationships often feel embarrassed to admit that their partner is abusive for fear of being judged, blamed, marginalized, pitied or looked down on. For example, in some LGBTQIA* relationships, someone may stay with their partner for fear of being outed.

11. They share a life together.

Marriage, children, and shared finances are often huge reasons that people in abusive relationships stay in them. This dependency is heightened in relationships where one partner is differently abled. But there are also similar factors that affect young people's



loyal is a great thing, a good friend or partner would never endanger or hurt you.

7. They feel personally responsible for their partner or their behavior.

After a conflict, an abuser will turn the situation around and make their partner feel guilty or as though they are somehow at fault. This type of behavior is known as [gaslighting](#).

8. They believe that if they stick it out, things might change.

A lot of people in abusive relationships stay in them because they love their partner and think that things will change. They might also believe their partner's behavior is due to tough times or feel as though they can change their partner if they are a better partner themselves. Never stay in a relationship in which you count on someone to change their behavior for the better.

9. There is social pressure to be in a perfect relationship.

There is incredible pressure to

decisions to stay in relationships, including shared friend groups and living situations.

There are lots of elements that influence a person's decision to stay in an abusive relationship. And while seeking help to get out of these relationships is the most important thing, blaming someone in an abusive relationship is never okay. There is a big difference between judgment and responsibility. While someone might have used bad judgment by staying in an unhealthy or dangerous situation, it does not mean that they are responsible, or asking, for the abuse perpetrated against them.

¹ Source: Myths & Facts about Domestic Violence | Domestic Violence Intervention Program. (n.d.). Retrieved August 09, 2016, from <http://www.dvpiowa.org/myths-facts-about-domestic-violence/>

Source: <http://www.standffov.org/statistics/>



EVERYBODY'S WORLD

With **Henrietta Gonzuk**

Living

Causes of 'Mom Guilt' and going with it

By **JASMINE KAMAL**

AS you know, every month we dedicate a day to ask a question about one of the common challenges that mothers are facing these days or have been facing throughout time, so we can hear from you about your experiences and help you learn how to deal with them. However, this time it was completely different. We know that mom guilt is a huge mental strain that many mothers and especially new moms struggle with and it's hard for a lot of them to understand the cause of these feelings and know how to cope with mom guilt.

20 Creative Activities to Do With Your Kids at Home

The first time we asked our question on social media, the answers were very limited. Which led us to ask you again, but in a different way, perhaps more clearly, but we found that it seems like moms are finding it hard to distinguish and understand the guilt they could be feeling and so we decided that we should talk about that today...

The Struggles of Breastfeeding by 5 Moms and How to Overcome Them.

Mom guilt: Its causes and how to deal with it

What is mom guilt?

Simply put, it is the feeling of guilt that can overwhelm a mom, at some point, causing her to think that she is falling short or not doing enough for her children. A mom would feel like she didn't or isn't doing what she's supposed to in order to make them better, whether emotionally, physically, or even compared to other children. She begins to feel a weight on her shoulders and a heaviness in her chest, worried about her baby or children.

Does mom guilt last a long time?

Some moms struggle with strong mom guilt for a while and then it goes away. While for others, it never goes away or lasts for many years. It may even get worse, if you're unable to deal with it or process it.

10 Effective Tips to Help Your Teenage Daughter with Her Body Image.

What are the causes of mom guilt?

1. Pressure from family and friends

After birth, a mother is under extreme pressures, having most people around her telling her the importance of breastfeeding, that she has low milk supply (even if she doesn't), and that she has to find a solution. These are the traditional hereditary tips that have always been passed on from one generation to next. They make the new mom feel incredibly guilty about not being able to feel her baby well enough. Also, these pressures continue for years, taking on different and topics.

2. Comparing your child to others

As the child grows, the mom enters into a constant struggle of comparison. If she sees that a baby has started speaking or walking before hers, she immediately begins to blame herself. Having thoughts like..."I must have done something wrong that led him/her to not do these things in time." Of course, the comparing does not end here, it can even get harder with time, comparing all the smallest little details.

Making Amends with Your Mom... It's About Time!

3. Social media

With the spread of social media, virtual images that are not an accurate representation of reality often affect how a mother views herself. She begins comparing herself to other mothers. For example, if she sees a cute picture of a mom and her child, she would blame herself for not making a memory like this happen with her baby or she can start to believe that this mother's life is perfect, with none of the difficulties she's facing and so on...

4. Lack of self-confidence

Sometimes mothers suffer from a lack of self-confidence and insecurities, that have been there since childhood. What makes them always feel like they're not doing



enough is that they think they're not good enough and they should be doing more and better. This is also a problem that can keep growing as their babies get older.

5. Her experience with her parents

Some mothers had experiences of neglect from their own parents and might not have resolved or dealt with these issues. This can lead to her to a fear and need for control to prevent her from making the same mistakes. She could often feel like she's falling short of being a good parent, just like her's.

5 Essential Do's and Don'ts for Breastfeeding and Nursing Clothes.

Which mothers are most likely to experience mom guilt?

The truth is, it is hard to find a mother who is completely exempt from that guilt. Yes guilt is not a healthy emotion, but unfortunately most mothers go

through it. However, there are those with which it can get really unhealthy and obsessive, to the point where it really requires therapy and has to be taken seriously.

1. Mothers who struggle with mental health problems.

2. Mothers who suffer from postpartum depression.

3. Mothers who do not have enough awareness or the necessary information about everything related to motherhood.

4. Working mothers (society makes them feel like they're taking away from their child's needs for their own personal needs and success.)

5 Red Flag Signs That You're Not Ready to Have Kids.

How to deal with mom guilt

1. Identify the source of guilt
We just talked about the causes of guilt, and now the first step in dealing with it is to what the source or cause is for you...

2. Be honest with yourself

Take a pen and paper, and write down the good things that you do for your children and on another paper write down the negatives or the things you think you're lacking in (and the source of guilt you came to understand in point #1). Try to find a link between the two paper. For example, you think you're not feeding your baby enough and that's why they're thin, look in your other paper and see how many times you feed them a day and what nutrients that contains. Then do some research and ask their doctor to make sure you're on the right track.

3. Avoid people who are toxic and negative

We are all surrounded by people who have negative effects on us, our emotions and energy. So take a closer look at the people around you and distance yourself from those who don't make you feel good about yourself or are constantly criticizing you and how you are as a mom.

4. Educate yourself about parenting

You will not be able to determine whether you are or aren't doing enough for your children, if you don't know what should and shouldn't be done when it comes to raising them. Try to read a lot about parenting, nutrition, psychology, behavior, health and more, from different sources so you can have a full rounded view and education to help you do the best you can.

How to Perfectly Handle and Prevent Your Kid's First Day of School Panic.

5. Talk to a specialist or doctor

Always consult a doctor. You feel like you're failing their health? Take them to the doctor for a checkup. Your child isn't walking or talking yet? See a doctor as soon as possible. You're still feeling guilty, despite taking the necessary measures? Why not see a therapist or psychiatrist, so you can address your feelings and know how to cope with them?



Editorial

Task before Tinubu as ECOWAS Chairman

THE Nigerian President Ahmed Bola Tinubu emerged the new Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) at the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government on Sunday, the 9th of July, 2023 in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau. ECOWAS was formed in 1975 and currently has 15 member states with a combined population of 387 million and nominal GDP of \$816 billion. The member states are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo

TINUBU'S election shows that leaders in the sub-region have confidence in him, and Nigeria to chart the way forward. The unanimous endorsement speaks volumes, and must not be taken for granted. Tinubu is the eighth Nigerian leader to be elected chairman of ECOWAS. Buhari headed the body twice, as military head of state and then as a democratic president.

PRESIDENT Tinubu, who is the latest entrant into the exclusive club of Heads of State in West Africa, enthusiastically accepted the honour, on behalf of Nigeria, with a solemn pledge to bear the responsibility of the office and run an inclusive administration.

HE warned of the threat of insecurity and the issue of creeping terrorism which is seriously impeding the growth, progress and development of the region. In line with this therefore, he has called for collective action from member-states. It is a known fact that the threat has reached an alarming level, and needs urgent actions in addressing the challenges. Without a peaceful environment, progress and development will continue to elude us. All regional frameworks must be used to address the menace of insecurity.

THE Chairman noted that ECOWAS had developed a security architecture, which covers a wide range of areas that involved kinetic and non-kinetic operations, including preventive diplomacy. There is also the Regional Plan of Action on Fight against Terrorism 2020-2024 as well as the operationalization of the ECOWAS Standby Force on Fight Against Terrorism. He is to ensure that these plans would be harmonized and resources mobilized towards the actualisation of the initiatives, and work collectively to have an effective regional counterterrorism measure.

TINUBU therefore pledged that under his leadership, frameworks would be harmonized to actualize the dreams of ECOWAS. There is little doubt that Tinubu could deploy his wealth of experience in public administration in spearheading sustainable socio-economic plans for the sub-region. He has the capacity to work with other ECOWAS leaders to turn things around in the sub-regional body.

FOR the sub region, this is something to be happy about. Translating same into strategic action is another thing for the member states of ECOWAS. Nigeria, in particular. The economy has to be a reflection of the status, and respect accorded it by other nations. It has to walk-the-talk.

THE United Nations has said the Nigerian economy will grow to three per cent in 2023 because of a robust commodities trade and dynamic consumer goods and services markets. It stated that high inflation and power supply issues are affecting economic growth in the country.

STRENGTHENING economic cooperation, and fostering closer ties among west African countries would be a plus for the Nigerian economy. It is believed that Tinubu's vast experience and visionary approach will steer ECOWAS towards greater heights of regional integration, socio-economic prosperity and peace. These are requirements, and stimulants for growth of the Nigerian economy and harness its immense potential for the benefit of all.

ECOWAS can further strengthen economic cooperation, and foster closer ties among member states, with an unwavering dedication to upholding democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law which will undoubtedly solidify ECOWAS's position as a vanguard of regional stability and progress.

STAKEHOLDERS within the region are enjoined to join hands to build a prosperous, peaceful, and integrated West Africa. This unity will ensure that our pursuit of the greater good, promoting dialogue, cooperation, and sustainable development throughout the ECOWAS Community, would be achieved because what we want to see is growth, as growth is a necessary condition for fighting poverty.

SKILLS is said to be the capacity to do something well, technique ability it is usually acquired or learned.

While grade can be defined as the performance of an individual or a group or an examination or test.

I therefore admonish undergraduates in tertiary institutions to be experts or professionals in their various area of specialization, most especially students of mass communication.

Mass Communication is indeed a broad course which has lot of branches, firms and organizations are after undergraduates who are more specialized in their field of study which includes journalism, broadcasting reporting and so on. So they can improve on the growth of their organization.

However, grades are of top priority for students in tertiary institutions which can make their parents proud. But the truth must be told, nowadays

people tend to buy certificates due to unemployment in the nation, and can't perform effectively in their offices.

Meanwhile they do not have certain qualities of either a broadcaster, reporter or a journalist, and do not have the ethics of a professional media practitioner.

Undergraduates should have a thought on how they impact to the growth and development of their various organizations or place of

Enhancing skills amongst undergraduates

industrial training. Lecturers are advised to put more efforts in lecturing students on how to improve their writing reading and listening skills as they dream to be great media professionals or practitioners.

Lastly, critical thinking and problems should be well admonished by lecturers, whereby everyone experiences problems in their



daily life. Some may be small which can be solved in an easier way but some may be in a complicated stage.

From a student life, we should make our minds critically and for solving problems, which helps to make our challenges in a positive way in our future job.

Either in a job or in organisation exposure should

begin an is experiencing though situations with the task with our co-workers, and in working place are the main challenges in our routine life. Facing the tasks in a manner is a skill.

By Jonathan Rabo Jaimo Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos Mass Communication Department.

Depression and ways of tackling such ills

DEPRESSION is said to be the period of unhappiness or low morale which last's longer than several weeks and may include ideation of self-inflicted injury or suicide.

However symptoms of depression include persistent sadness empty mood loss of appetite or eating too much (insomnia), irritability restlessness, anxiety and so on.

Some of the major contributing factors include, abuse, physical Abuse, sexual abuse, death or loss, substance misuse, relationship breakdown divorce etc. depression is indeed a mental illness and if not provided precautionary measures has psychological implications such as grieddff, trauma stress and so on.

Victims of depression or those suffering from depression are further advised to talk to a psychologist for psychotherapy medications a loved one a religious leader for counseling on the issue at hand. For it is proverbially said "A problem shared is half solved."

Meanwhile losing a job or a source of livelihood can be so distressful especially when one has a family to cater for considering the economic instability. Nevertheless one has to move on for better days, for many victims of such circumstance have done more havoc to their mental health due

to excessive thinking, so also many have become pronounced.

In the case of death of a loved one which also triggers depression or a major contributing factor to depression one is expected to listen to music, "For music is food for the soul."

Research has proven that music can go a long way to boost your mood and improve symptoms of depression. It can also help you strength your reception of positive emotions.

In addition one is expected have fun recreational activities such as swimming playing games etc. in addition depression can push you to give in to your fatigue. Food that are good for helping depression include eggs, oily fishbeef, liver and so on.

Talk therapy programs should be organized most especially governmental and non organisations to help people with depression identify the negative thoughts and behaviours that result in depression and replace them with more positive strategies for building copying skills and psychological resilience.

Lastly a national study found out that the livelihood of having depression is higher in people with low levels of vitamin and also research has proven that people who had

symptoms of depression particularly those with seasonal effective disorder are tended to get better when the amount of

vitamin of in their bodies went up as you would not expect it.

By Jonathan Rabo Dammo Department of Mass Communication Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos.

The effects of examination malpractice

EXAMINATION is regarded as the means of measuring the level of knowledge or cognitive ability of students within a specified period of time.

Unfortunately, examination at different levels have cause a lot of problems to some people due their various engagement in various corrupt and staff practices tagged; examination malpractice" This is indeed a problem that require urgent attention because the importance of examination in any other forms cannot be over emphasized. Such is the only way one's ability or capacity can be assessed for.

Today, the spate of examination malpractice seems to be a very very rampant in both primary, secondary and tertiary institution which to a large extend affects the standard of quality of education of our students in the country.

Some of the cause of examination malpractice include, poor preparation for examination, poor and conducive environment and bad parental and peers influence.

The implication of examination malpractice is that the student will loose the ability to depend on his or her personal knowledge acquired and therefore finds a shortcut to cheat which at the long run the certificate acquired may not be

defended by the individuals. This trend affects not only the individuals involved but a complete draw back the society.

The adverse effect is the fact that the nations will have to depend of the quacks who may not actually be suitable for certain positions or responsibilities in life or in the society.

I wish to therefore, seize the opportunity to appeal to the government to review the present examination process by setting standard so an not to some the students sitting for examination.

Secondly, examinations must also understand that they are only testing the ability of the students and not just setting a trap for perhaps that may be a receipt for a better time ahead and a training point in our education system.

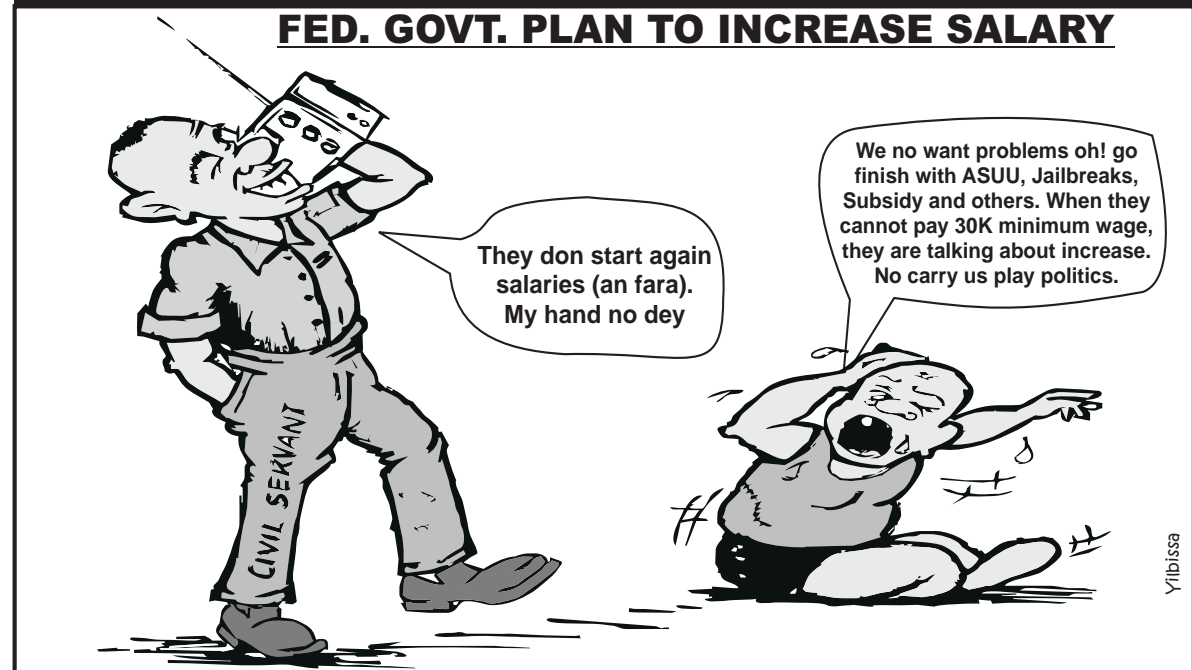
In my view attaching so much attention or importance to paper qualification may be the likely reason why there is the era pass examination at all cost.

It is time for government to also look at one's personal skills aptitude above certificate and there would in my opinion reduce or even do away with the negative trend of examination malpractice in our country.

Ezekiel James Nyam, I.T student of Plateau State Polytechnic, Jos campus.

Standard Cartoon

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Y/ibissa

Opinion

How insecurity in Katsina pushed Buhari into 'exile'

By EMELIKE OBINNA

IF you are abroad, particularly in the United Kingdom, you may likely bump into one or two top ex-government officials, who are now quietly enjoying their loot in the tranquility of London.

Then, if you have an opportunity to exchange pleasantries with them, they will tell you the usual story of being abroad on holiday, short visit or for medical check.

Well, the reality is that they have fled the country to the peaceful sanctuary provided by their fellow politicians abroad, while regrettably wasting the opportunity they had to turn their own country to a safe haven.

Surprisingly, some of the people you will never imagine leaving the country are already enjoying summer abroad.

If the reports making rounds that Muhammadu Buhari, the immediate past president, has fled the country, is something to hold on to, then the exodus of Nigerians abroad has received a huge boost.

It also offers a perfect scene for a make belief storyline, while leaving the viewers with the height of irony and hypocrisy.

A concerned Nigeria, who described himself as Distinguished Everest on his tweet recently, said: "Katsina is unsafe for Buhari. He is living in the UK now. His children are outside the country. Katsina citizens are still living in Katsina with its insecurities."

Recall that few weeks to his handover to the then president-elect, Buhari in a meeting with governors of the All Progressive

Congress (APC) had assured that he would be moving to Daura, his hometown in Katsina State, and spend six months before relocating to Kaduna, where he would spend his retirement.

Just a few days in Daura, the former president is said to have relocated to London, a place he considered more conducive and that offers the peace he needs on his retirement.

It is obvious that the former president is fleeing from the escalating insecurity in the country, especially in the North-West, his geopolitical zone, where banditry and kidnapping have turned into a small hell for the inhabitants.

Of course, Garba Shehu, Buhari's ex-media aide, has been issuing statements to defend his former boss' action and absence at his home at Government Reserved Area (GRA) in Daura, where he planned to stay for six months.

"He chose to go home in Daura hoping to find the type of quiet he wished for himself, but realising that this was not the case, visitors trooping in morning, day and night, he moved out to a more distant place," Shehu said.

But pundits think otherwise. They think that the former president is running away from insecurity, which he paid lip service to for the eight years he was in power.

"If his own people could boo him when he came to commission projects in Katsina in January this year, and went to the extent of throwing stones at vehicles, which

were part of his convoy, then that was a sign of what will happen if he decides to relocate to Daura on his retirement.

"The truth is that many were killed in Katsina, his hometown by bandits, many kidnapped and the president could not do anything. The people are angry with him and staying with them on retirement and now that the state security apparatus is not fully deployed for his safety is a risk," Mathias Oniwah, a security expert, said.

Another pundit argued that if Katsina is not safe enough for the ex-president, Kaduna, which he chose as his retirement home, and also closer to Abuja, would have offered him the peace he desired, instead of fleeing abroad as if there are no troubles in the United Kingdom.

"I think the former president is reaping from what he sowed. Imagine if Buhari had fought insecurity head-on, removed non-performing army chiefs, sought foreign collaborations on time, raised the morale of soldiers and removed sentiments, insecurity would have been a thing of the past," an anonymous pundit said.

Also, considering the fact that before Buhari became president, he hardly travels abroad, the pundits see a different Buhari now, who dislikes rural life in Daura, who sees Kaduna as unsafe, who doesn't want to be spotted in Abuja, but prefers London, his new love.

They also smell a rat in this new lifestyle, which comes with a cost.

"A former president cannot live in

any kind of place in the UK. It has to be a mansion, well furnished and protected. So, he had to get money out of the country to acquire such an edifice, whose monthly cost of maintenance can pay the school fees of many students in Daura.

"Is Nigeria going to be maintaining his new-found luxurious lifestyle and does it mean he has abandoned his Daura people to their fate?" anonymous pundit further wondered.

Meanwhile, the irony for many concerned citizens is that Buhari had boasted in an interview with Bloomberg in June 2022 that his regime would "leave Nigeria in a far better place than we found it," adding that "terrorists no longer hold any territory in Nigeria, and their leaders are deceased."

Same man has fled his country in less than a month after leaving power and that mirrors the mindset of most African leaders, who care less about the development of their countries, as they always run to the United Kingdom, Europe, America and other developed countries where the government is working, infrastructure and peace are in place.

It is also needless to count the number of lives lost to bandits, kidnapers and Boko Haram under Buhari's eight years in power, considering the huge funds spent on fighting insecurity with little result.

Earlier this year, the former president revealed that his administration had invested over \$1 billion in the acquisition of

weapons from the United States and other countries in the fight against insurgency since he assumed office in 2015.

With all the funds, and unable to subdue the bandits, Bulus Yakubu, a Pankshin-born lawyer, think that the former president decided to leave the country for a more organised one for fear of having skirmishes with the bandits, who were bold enough to attach his presidential convoy.

"If with the huge number of security personnel, sophisticated weapons, intelligence and advance team, yet Buhari's convoy was attacked, imagine what will happen now with far less than the number. The former president is scared and is running for safety," Yakubu said.

However, apart from the former president, most former ministers, and political office holders under Buhari's administration are jetting out of the country for fear of prosecution by the anti-graft agency.

Before now, many of them had relocated their families, making it easy to sneak in and out of the country, moving their loots abroad.

In their conclusion, the pundits blamed the insecurity, misrule and mass looting of the state funds by selfish leaders on the gullible Nigerian society.

"If we don't take the bait from politicians, if we insist and forget ethnicity, if we force the legislature to make laws that will keep our leaders back home, then they will ensure there is security to enable them retire in peace here," Chijioke Umelahi, a former lawmaker, said.

Expectation high as Nigeria's new security chiefs talk tough

By NOSA IGBINADOLOR

LAST week, Nigeria's President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu instructed his newly appointed security chiefs to work together to end the unyielding spate of insecurity in the country.

"He told us that we must work as a team and that there's work to be done," National Security Adviser, Nuhu Ribadu told State House Correspondents after a closed-door meeting with the President and Service Chiefs at the Aso Rock Villa in the nation's capital, Abuja.

Tinubu's directive is not dissimilar from the order he had given to the immediate past Service Chiefs on June 1, where he declared that he would not condone them working at cross purposes.

Africa's most populous nation has been grappling with severe security challenges for over a decade. In addition to the infamous Boko Haram terrorist group, Fulani terrorist groups, armed gangs, kidnappers, and separatist groups continue to aggravate the security situation in the country.

Figures from the Council on Foreign Relations Nigeria Security Tracker show that between May 2011 and July 2023, 98,906 violent deaths were recorded in the country with perpetrators including Boko Haram, state actors, sectarian, and other armed groups.

In June 2023, one month after president Tinubu came into office, 690 people were killed in the country by violent actors. Tinubu says his government is conscious of the security situation in Nigeria and ready to address all the concerns of Nigerians on the issue.

Many Nigerians aren't so sure his promise would be fulfilled.

Tinubu's predecessor, Muhammadu Buhari had promised to end insecurity while campaigning for office in 2015. He had pointed to his military background and vowed to end Boko Haram.

Buhari was unable to end the insurgency in the North-East. Rather, unprecedented massacre of people and destruction of communities were openly, blatantly and systematically advertised by Fulani terrorists assured of their protection by the certainty that their kith and kin controlled the commanding heights of state power in the country.

Under Buhari, Nigeria became a vast crime scene with daily killings and pillaging especially by unrestrained ethno-religious militias.

The London based Economist Newspaper in its October 23, 2021 edition, lamented Mr. Buhari's feebleness and cluelessness in tackling the expansive insecurity in the country. Terrorists and armed bandits are running wild because Mr Buhari is corrupt and lazy, failing to do anything but render lip service following every deadly attack, the paper argued.

"When violence erupts, the government does nothing or cracks heads almost indiscriminately...Economic troubles are compounded by a government that is inept and heavy-handed...He has failed to curb corruption, which breeds resentment. Many Nigerians are furious that they see so little benefit from the country's billions of petrodollars, much of which their rulers have squandered or stolen," the paper added.

Former lawmaker and social critic, Senator Shehu Sani accused the former president of wasting more money on security but failing to secure the lives of Nigerians.

Egbetokun said he would devise both human and technical intelligence to tackle the country's security challenges.

"So, it's going to be our collective responsibility. Everybody is going to be involved. Everyone will be turned into a policeman. We are going to partner with every group. Every law-abiding citizen will have to be brought on board. You must give us the information.

"Apart from technical intelligence, we will also rely so much on human intelligence which we believe is available within our communities. We are going to be proactive in our approach to solving our security problems," the IGP said.

In June, the police chief announced that personnel of the Police Mobile Force (PMF) would be withdrawn from VIPs escort and guard duties.

While the protection of dignitaries remains paramount, it is imperative that we realign our priorities to address the escalating security challenges faced by the nation as a whole.

It has almost become a meaningless ritual for every newly elected Police chief in the first days following his appointment to immediately direct all Mobile police personnel withdrawn from VIPs escort, order the dismantling of roadblocks and ban its officers from harassing car owners with tinted vehicles.

Inspectors-General of Police since 2007 have all vowed to recall police escorts from VIPs. They never go ahead to do so. Since Egbetokun's vow, mobile policemen have yet to be withdrawn from protecting VIPs, their homes and properties.

Ending insecurity in the country is key to Tinubu's ambition to drive Africa's largest economy into a \$1 trillion economy by 2031. Doing so would depend on his ability to drive reforms in the security services, police and military.

Nigeria's security architecture is not fit for purpose and unable to meet the security demands of the next decade.

Nigeria's police are understaffed, demoralised and poorly trained. Many, noted the Economist Magazine, supplement their low pay by robbing the public they have sworn to protect.

On 4 October 2020, a video went viral showing officers of the notorious Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) dragging two men from a hotel and shooting one of them outside. A few days later, protests erupted across Nigeria under the umbrella of the #EndSARS movement.

Since then, not much ha changed. Policemen continue to brutalise and extort citizens across the country.

Nigeria's military suffers from an acute readiness crisis. They are overstretched, under-manned, grossly under-equipped, ill-trained, and poorly led. Even more unpleasant, is the fact that the three services are locked in intense unhealthy competition, with neither the administrative head of the military (Minister of Defence) nor the operational head (Chief of Defence Staff) able to arbitrate. This has resulted in lone wolf approaches to operations; with individual services working in silos rather than in concert, thus imperilling the counterterrorism/counterinsurgencies

campaigns across the country.

The challenge facing the Nigerian military as clearly evident over the last decade is to train a force that is capable of winning wars. In the conflict against Boko Haram, whole battalions have been accused of running away from the battlefield, with cases of soldiers losing their will to fight. While access to efficient equipment has been cited as the main reason for this, many experts believe that it is a secondary reason.

One of the critical factors responsible for this lethargic approach by the Nigerian military, according to a former Chief of Military Intelligence, is the methodology for recruiting officers and soldiers, their manner of training and on-boarding, as well as the methodology for deploying and promoting them.

"The Nigerian military has over the years become a 'tribal employment portal' where emphasis is placed on language, tribe and religion at the expense of capability, efficiency and merit. The resultant outcome is a large corps of officers and men incapable of securing the country and unwilling to put their 'best foot' forward in the arena of battle. The reason is not hard to fathom; many joined the military not out of patriotism and a willingness to serve, but out of material need for a source of regular income," he noted.

President Tinubu's reforms would need to redefine who can become a soldier and how that process takes place. The distorted system of recruitment, postings, transfers, promotions, rewards and punishment needs a complete overhaul to engender patriotism and selflessness and thus, get the best of the best into the military.

Furthermore, the deployment of soldiers for internal security operations such as anti-kidnapping, anti-crime and anti-cultism operations completely negates the training and doctrine as well as the responsibilities of the military.

The end result has been the erosion of the professionalism of soldiers as well as the vitiation of their distinctive soldierly quality as they get more and more involved in civilian matters.

Change of Name

<p>ROSE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ROSE ICNA MEDES, now wish to be known and addressed as ROSE RINGWE MEDES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MANJA</p> <p>I, formerly known as TONGRIANG MANJA, now wish to be known and addressed as MANJA TONGRIANG DA'APAN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MOSES FELIX IRIMIYA, now wish to be known and addressed as MOSES IRIMIYA NBA. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>RACHAEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as RACHAEL SAMUEL AGARA, now wish to be known and addressed as RACHAEL SAMUEL PAM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>NAANTUAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANTUAM TANKO, now wish to be known and addressed as TANKO NAANTUAM. All former documents remain valid. Date of birth 05-05-1974. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>SUNDAY</p> <p>I, formerly known as SUNDAY MARKUS, now wish to be known and addressed as SUNDAY MARKUS BULUS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>PAM</p> <p>I, formerly known as DALYOP MARYAMU LYOP, now wish to be known and addressed as PAM HAPPY LYOP. All former documents remain valid. Correct date of birth is 25/12/1987 not 6/6/1958. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NYAZI</p> <p>I, formerly known as KIM NYAZI CHOJI, now wish to be known and addressed as NYAZI LINUS MANDUNG. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public please take note.</p>	<p>USMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as USMAN RAHINA, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN RAHINA IDRIS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>LOIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAKUBU LOIS MAGAJI, now wish to be known and addressed as LOIS DAPAR DANLADI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>YOHANNA</p> <p>I, formerly known as FELIX YAKUBU, now wish to be known and addressed as YOHANNA FELIX DAGUL. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>DAMULAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAMULAK AGNESS, now wish to be known and addressed as DAMULAK AGNESS WURETANE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>BINCHEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SAMUEL MIRI, now wish to be known and addressed as BINCHEN SAMUEL MIRI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANCHEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANCHEN BUTKO JANGNAP, now wish to be known and addressed as NANCHEN BUTKO DENFA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>USMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as USMAN RASHIDI, now wish to be known and addressed as USMAN RASHIDI JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>TSAKU</p> <p>I, formerly known as BAMAIYISAIALLAH JONATHAN, now wish to be known and addressed as TSAKU JOSEPH AKLO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should</p>	<p>UMEH</p> <p>I, formerly known as BLESSING UCHE UMEH, now wish to be known and addressed as UMEH UCHE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>	<p>OBIEKEZIE</p> <p>I, formerly known as OKOYE MARY-ANN, now wish to be known and addressed as OBIEKEZIE MARY-ANN. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public should please take note.</p>
<p>IZANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as LADI AGADA, now wish to be known and addressed IZANG LADI AGADA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GIDEON</p> <p>I, formerly known as GIDEON REUBEN, now wish to be known and addressed REUBEN GIDEON JURBE. Correct date of birth is 2/6/1978. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take</p>	<p>BARRY</p> <p>I, formerly known as MARTINS BARRY, now wish to be known and addressed as BARRY ITSLONG MARTIN. Correct date of birth is 16/10/1992. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IKEGWUONU</p> <p>I, formerly known as IKEH ELIZABETH IFEYINWA, now wish to be known and addressed IKEGWUONU ELIZABETH IFEYINWA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ISA</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAUDA MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as ISA MUHAMMAD DAUDA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>IKECHUKWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as IKECHUKWU ONYINYE, now wish to be known and addressed as IKECHUKWU ONYINYE PEACE. Date of birth is 17/7/1976. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>CHIDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ELIZABETH CHIDI SILAS JOHNBULL, now wish to be known and addressed as CHIDI ELIZABETH SILAS. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANPON</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANPON FAVOUR, now wish to be known and addressed as NANPON FAVOUR KOTUR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>JOHN</p> <p>I, formerly known as TALI KURMICIT, now wish to be known and addressed as JOHN KURMICIT REJOICE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MORRIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as JUMMAI FRIDAY, now wish to be known and addressed as MORRIS JUMMAI MUNCHME. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANDI</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANDI DANGOMBE AMOS, now wish to be known and addressed as NANDI AMOS DANGOMBE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GODIYA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS GODIYA MARAM, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. GODIYA MARM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>STEPHEN</p> <p>I, formerly known as SARAH ONU STEPHEN, now wish to be known and addressed as STEPHEN SARAH ADAGWI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ATINE</p> <p>I, formerly known as ALTINE LUKA, now wish to be known and addressed as ALTINE HAMEED. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EBINNY</p> <p>I, formerly known as EBINNY PATRICK VICTOR, now wish to be known and addressed as EBINNY OSAYI VICTOR. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PHILIBUS</p> <p>I, formerly known as FILIBUS AYOK, now wish to be known and addressed as PHILIBUS AYHOK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MUSA</p> <p>I, formerly known as MUSA ZAINAB, now wish to be known and addressed as MUSA ZAINAB MUHAMMAD. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>MOSES</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS MWANLE NAANDI SABO, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. MOSES NAANDI MAKHAM of Bungba District Mangu LGC. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take</p>
<p>WAKDON</p> <p>I, formerly known as JOHN BAPIYORYE, now wish to be known and addressed as WAKDON BAPIYORYE JOB. Correct date of birth is March 3, 1980 not March 3, 1979. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>RUTH</p> <p>I, formerly known as MISS AKUTARE, RUTH, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. RUTH OSAZELE JACOB. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EVARISTER</p> <p>I, formerly known as EVARISTER CHUNDUNG DUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as EVARISTER CHUNDUNG PATRICK. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as EMMANUEL ROSE, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL ADAH. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SANI</p> <p>I, formerly known as SANI YUSHE'U, now wish to be known and addressed as SANI YUSHAU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as HENRIATA HOSEA, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL IYESHI HOSEA. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>
<p>DAVOU</p> <p>I, formerly known as DAVOU ANNA DAUDA, now wish to be known and addressed as DAVOU ANNA YOM. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>SULEIMAN</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI SULEMAN, now wish to be known and addressed as SULEIMAN ABDULHADI. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KHAMIS</p> <p>I, formerly known as KAMIS GAMBO MOHAMMED, now wish to be known and addressed as KHAMIS GAMBO MOHAMMED. Date of birth is 5/1/1970 not 1/1/1970. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>NANYHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as WANWAMICIT MIMMYEL, now wish to be known and addressed as NANYHI WANWAMICIT JAMES. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EMMANUEL</p> <p>I, formerly known as ELIZABETH EMMANUEL OLORUNDARE, now wish to be known and addressed as EMMANUEL ELIZABETH OLORUNDARE. Correct date of birth 22/7/1988. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>EBERCHUKWU</p> <p>I, formerly known as EBERCHUKWU JOSEPHINE AGUBA, now wish to be known and addressed as EBERCHUKWU JOSEPHINE ORAEKWE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take</p>
<p>DADAI</p> <p>I, formerly known as DADAI PIASPAN HYCENETH, now wish to be known and addressed as DADAI HYCENETH PIASPAN. My correct date of birth is 12/12/1990 not 12/12/1984. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>KARGWAK</p> <p>I, formerly known as NANZING GRACE EZEKIEL, now wish to be known and addressed as KARGWAK GRACE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>INUWA</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI HADIZA, now wish to be known and addressed as INUWA HADIZA TIKE. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>ABDULLAHI</p> <p>I, formerly known as ABDULLAHI, KHADIJA ISA, now wish to be known and addressed as ABDULLAHI, KHADIJA ALHASSAN. My correct date of birth is 1st July, 1998. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>PUBLIC NOTICE</p> <p>NEXT OF KIN NOTICE</p> <p>This is to notify the general public that I DAVID WILLIAM PAM is the next of kin of late WILLIAM PAM who died on the July 17, 2021. He nominated me his next of kin before his demise. All concerned authorities and the public to take note please.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Signed DAVID WILLIAM PAM Next of kin</p>	
<p>LUKA</p> <p>I, formerly known as LUKA DORIS DUNG, now wish to be known and addressed as LUKA DORATHY NORO. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>YAKUBU</p> <p>I, formerly known as YAKS GODFREY, now wish to be known and addressed as YAKUBU GODFREY. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p>GANG</p> <p>I, formerly known as GYANG KACHOLLOM PAM, now wish to be known and addressed as GANG KACHOLLOM YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. All concerned authorities and the general public to please take note.</p>	<p><i>For Sale</i></p>		

News

Foundations boost businesses of vulnerable women

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

A non-governmental organisation, Helpline Foundation for the Needy Abuja in collaboration with Ramatu Tijani Aliyu (RTA) Foundation, has empowered 40 vulnerable women in Kogi with interest free loan to boost their petty businesses.

Speaking at the inauguration of the scheme in Lokoja, DrJumai Ahmadu, the founder of the foundation, said the loan is a Non-Profit Revolving Loan Scheme (NPLRS), introduced in 2018 to encourage women-led businesses.

Dr Ahmadu, who was represented by Barr. Tina Tims-Ejigah, said the initiative was to empower vulnerable women and widows to become self-reliant and sustain their families.

The founder stressed that the NPLRS was designed to support widows and under-privileged women to start profitable

businesses with a small interest free payable at intervals.

According to her, the beneficiaries would form clusters consisting 20 to 40 women. Each cluster would be where given a certain amount of money to startup or boost their existing businesses.

"These women are expected to pay back these loans in installments which will be given to other women to start their own businesses.

"The aim of the scheme is to create a community of self-reliant women who will add value to themselves and their immediate community, through inclusion and circulation of startup funds", she said.

She noted that the scheme had recorded over 1000 beneficiaries in the pilot states which include FCT and Nasarrawa

She encouraged the beneficiaries to use the loan judiciously, and be committed to paying back the loan so that others could benefit.

Each of the 40 beneficiaries in four clusters received a sum of N20, 000, while the remaining 40 women in the clusters would benefit subsequently.

Hajia Momoh Jimba, President of Market Women Association, Kogi State, who spoke on behalf of the beneficiaries, thanked the foundations for the gesture.

Jimba said that the gesture would go a long way to help the beneficiaries to establish and boost their petty trades to be self-reliant and reduce poverty among women.

From Joseph Amedu,
Lokoja

PROFESSOR of Information Science, Prof. Ezra ShilobaGbaje has stressed the need for the establishment of Nigerian National Centre for Digital Preservation (NNCDP) for monitoring and conduct of researches on digital preservation in Nigeria.

Prof. Gbaje made the call

By Dorcas Pankyes Gamaje

THE Chief of Air Staff, Air Vice Marshal Hasan Abubakar joined other dignitaries and well-wishers at Ibadan recently, to celebrate the 2023 Nigerian Army Day Celebration (NADCEL).

In a statement signed by Air Commodore Edward GABKWET, the Director of Public Relations and INFORMATION, Nigerian Air Force the event, which coincided with the 160th anniversary of the Nigerian Army (NA) witnessed display of various arsenals in the inventory of the Nigerian Army, parade as well as NA Physical Training Corps calisthenics display.

CAS, Army celebrate NADCEL

Nigerian Air Force (NAF) C-130 aircraft and Mi-117 helicopter were also on hand to provide airlift for NA rappellers and paratroopers who exhibited skills, courage and professionalism during the well-attended event. Indeed, it was a commendable display of synergy and coordination by NAF aircrew and NA troops.

While at Ibadan, the CAS also took time to inspect ongoing projects at the new NAF Base situated at Ajia community, Ibadan.

The statement further explained that in April 2022, the NAF took

possession of a 58-hectare land at Ajia community in Ibadan donated by the Oyo State Government for the construction of a permanent NAF Base. It is hoped that when completed, the new Base would enhance NAF readiness and responsiveness to security challenges in the state. Situated near the Ibadan Airport, the new Base is also expected to serve as an alternate airfield to Lagos Airfield, thus enabling the NAF to launch seamless and efficient air operations in the Southwest Region of Nigeria.

Don calls for establishment of NNCDP

in his Inaugural Lecture titled: "Beyond Digitization: Access and Preservation" which he presented as the 13th in the Federal University Lokoja (FUL) Inaugural Lecture series recently in Lokoja.

He said there was also the need for a "unified national digital

preservation policy and implementation strategies" that would address identified lapses.

The policy, he added, was also expected to provide a well-articulated roadmap for digital preservation activities for the National Information Centres and other related efforts in digital preservation in the country.

The Information Science specialist suggested in his Policy Principle Statement, that the centre, which is expected to function as a parastatal, would have the mandate and commitment to digital object preservation.

The center, he added, would ensure that digital objects created and preserved at the Nigerian National Information Centres are available, accessible for re-use in the short and long-term

Prof. Gbaje also called for the modification and re-design of the Open Archival Information System (OAIS) reference model for the preservation of digital objects using appropriate computer hardware and Dspace Open Source Software.

He hinted that the Federal Government of

Nigeria over the past two decades had formulated and promoted many initiatives and policies that encourage the use of digital technology in almost every facet of human endeavour.

The aim, according to him, is to ensure that Information Technology resources are readily available to promote efficient national development and provide enabling environment for data protection and data utility.

"I wish to state that to date, no digital preservation policy has been put in place to ensure that the growing digital objects created as a result of a shift to digital information systems are preserved for long-term accessibility and re-use, he asserted.

He added that Fake News was now rampant because of improper information preservation procedures saying that when put in proper perspective, systems would begin to reject fake news on their own.

With artificial intelligence, fake news rejection is possible, he emphasised.

Kogi dismisses claim of extra judicial killings

From AMEDU JOSEPH,
Lokoja

THE Kogi Government says there are no extra judicial killings in the state as being pedaled by some perceived enemies of peace and progress.

Mr Kingsley Fanwo, Kogi Commissioner for Information, made this known in a statement in Lokoja.

"The insinuation on extrajudicial killings is what some naysayers and purveyors of violence, who were hard-hit by the recent onslaught on criminals in the state, want people to believe.

"It's unfortunate that they have been mourning a criminal, gunrunner and kidnapper, who was taken down by security agents after his attack on security operatives in the state.

"We cannot sacrifice the peace of the state on the altar of violent politics," he said..

Fanwo argued that it had become imperative for the state government to clear the air on the matter, occasioned by a purported protest by ill-informed political agents in wigs, who were clearly acting the script of sponsors of violence in Kogi.



Bello

He claimed that the protest was a deliberate act to misinform the general public and create an impression of crisis in the confluence state ahead of the Nov. 11 gubernatorial poll.

According to him, it is part of a list of activities that was drawn by some unpopular political actors who desperately want power and are banking on using killers and criminals to achieve their blood-drenching ambition.

"The Kogi government wishes to state clearly and unequivocally that the good people of the state are totally in support of

actions being taken by security agencies to rid the state of crime and allow the peace that has been enjoyed over the years endure.

"If there is anyone on the streets protesting against the peace and security of the state, that person must immediately be regarded as a criminal whose trade has been cut short by the zero tolerance for criminality approach of the security agencies.

"We wish to inform members of the general public that the Kogi

government will continue to make deliberate and legally-certified efforts at ensuring peace and security in the state.

"This is because that remains the principal responsibility of the government. Politicians harboring criminals with the intent of disturbing the peace of the state will always have security agencies to contend with," he said.

The commissioner, however, called on security agencies to invite politicians expressing sadness over the death of a criminal for questioning.

He called on residents of Kogi to go about their normal businesses without let or hindrance as Kogi will be made safe before, during and after the poll.

From TERESE TUHWA,
Makurdi

A middle aged man, Mr. Iorver Udele from Ajo community in Kwande Local Government Area, Benue North east Senatorial District has reportedly killed a lion with his bare hands.

Our correspondent gathered that Mr. Udele

Man kills lion with bare hands

was working on his cassava farm on Mount Ngokur where the roaring wild beast appeared to attack him.

In self defense, the courageous Udele launched a fiercer counter attack which lasted for over ten minutes before he overpowered the wild beast.

Mr. Udele whom many locals described as the

"modern Samson" was rushed to Adikpo General Hospital shortly after accomplishing the mission.

As at the time of filing this report, doctors attending to him and confirmed that Mr. Udele was in a stable condition but efforts to reach the Chief Medical Director for further confirmation proved abortive.

PROBATE NOTICE

**IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE OF PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA
PROBATE DIVISION**

WHEREAS the person whose name is set out in the first Column hereunder died into on the date and place state in the said column. AND WHEREAS the person whose name(s) and addressed and relations to the deceased are set out in second column hereto has/have applied to High Court of Plateau State if grant of letter administration of the Real and personal properties/ estate of the said deceased NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that letters of Administration will be granted to such person/persons unless a "NOTICE TO PROHIBIT the grant is filed in the Registry within twenty one (21) days of from the date hereof.

NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT	NAME OF DECEASED PERSON	NAME OF ADDRESS OF APPLICANT'S FOR GRANT
YAKUBU IRIMIYA late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th June, 2023 at Shendam LGA, Plateau State.	YAKUBU JOSEPH JOSEPHINE of Angwan NGAS, Shendam LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	NENCHIN GOMOS late of Plateau State. Died on the May 1st, 2023 at Pankshin LGA, Plateau State.	LYDIA NENCHIN GOMOS & NENPIN NENCHIN GOMOS of NVRI Quarters Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.	FANGANG NIMYEL NIMDOR RAMBANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 8th January, 2023 at Zamko, Langtang North LGA, Plateau State.	PIUS NIMYEL MANDAM of Furaka Jos North LGC, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
ISHAKU MICHAEL PAUL late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th April, 2022 at Rayfield Medical Center, Jos, Plateau State.	KUCHELI MARKUS & PAUL HELEN SHALLANGWA of John Dankaro Crescent Bukuru Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow/mother of the said deceased.	DASWAN ANWA TIMOTHY late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th January, 2022 at Namu, Qua'anPan LGA, Plateau State.	DABOER NOEL DASWAN of Namu Qua'anPan LGA, Plateau State. Lawful brother of the said deceased.	DACHUNG GYANG late of Plateau State. Died on the 28th August, 2022 at Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State.	MAFENG GYANG DACHUNG of COCIN LCC Rahoss Riyom LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased
DALYOP ABOYI (Also known as DALYOP BOYI) late of Plateau State. Died on the 29th May, 2023 at Vom, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	BOYI HUDUNG of Fwii Vom Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	NIMLA DANJUMA FABONG late of Plateau State. Died on the 19th February, 2023 at Zawan, Jos south LGA, Plateau State.	RACHAEL NIMLA DANJUMA of Zawan Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	JONATHAN LABARI late of Nasarawa State. Died on the 25th July, 2022 at Bwari.	JONATHAN TIMOTHY ADAMU & NA'OMI JONATHAN of ECWA Bishara No. 4 Jenta Adamu Jos-North LGA, Plateau State.. Lawful widow/son of the said deceased.
PANDOK PHILIP late of Plateau State. Died on the 6th November, 2022 at Panyam, Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	PHILIP KRITMWA JOY of opposite Goodnews Bakery Rantya Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	HONG JUSTINA JOSEPH late of Kaduna State. Died on the 23rd October, 2023 at Nasarawa.	AMOS BLESSING KUNAK & JONATHAN JOSEPH HONG of NVRI Vom Quarters Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful daughter/son of the said deceased.	VINCENT NNAECHIGHA ANUMBA late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd February, 2022 at OLA Hospital, Jos, Plateau State.	OKECHUKWU ANUMBA PETER of. T99 Utan Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
MOHAMMED TUKUR late of Plateau State. Died on the 7th November, 2022 at Hospital in Bonny Island, Rivers State.	MUHAMMAD NAWAS IBRAHIM No. 58 Naraguta Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	DAKWAL SATMAK late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th June, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	SATMAK GABRIEL DAKWAL of Kopshu Ampang West Mangu LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	FLORENCE SINKAT KUM late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th February, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	KUM CROSSTAR CHALYAH No. 47 Bauchi Ring Road Jos Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.
ADAH PETER OMALLEY late of Plateau State. Died on the 9th January, 2021, at Kufan Miango Road, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	BRIDGET ADAH of EN 164 T Kufan Miango Road Jos South LGA, Plateau State, lawful widow of the said deceased.	NWEKE LIVINGS EMELIKE late of Abia State. Died on the 12th October, 2021 at Gyel, Bukuru, Jos South LGA, Plateau State.	IFEANYI JUDE NWEKE of Okpu Ugwuogu Uturu Isiu-Kwato Abia State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	GARBA MOHAMMED late of Plateau State. Died on the 17th December, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	SHAMSUDEEN MOHAMMED GARBA & MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR GARBA of behidin Uma Bread Bukuru express Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
MANGAI CALEB MAJU late of Plateau State. Died on the 18th August, 2017 at JUTH, Plateau State.	LYDIA CALEB MANGAI of behind Geotess Tudun Wada Ring Road Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	ILOKANUNO CHIKELUE OLUCHUKWU late of Plateau State. Died on the 14th April, 2023 at Nimo, Anambra State.	CHIOMA ILOKANUNO No. 32 Apodume St. Jos North LGA, Plateau State. Lawful widow of the said deceased.	SHUAIBU GARBA late of Plateau State. Died on the 25th January, 2023 at Mangu LGA, Plateau State.	SHUAIBU MANIRU of Gwamlar Dengi Kanam LGA Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
TALATU JERRY MOLTOK late of Plateau State. Died on the 3rd April, 2023 at Jos Plateau State.	PAUL JERRY MOLTOK & PAULINE JERRY MOLTOK of No. 12 AVE. Federa Low Cost Jos, Plateau State. Lawful son/ daughter of the said deceased.	AISHA BALA late of Plateau State. Died on the 20th April, 2022 at Bauchi State.	ALIYU ABDULBAS & HASSAN MUHAMMAD ALI of Barkin Ladi LGA, Plateau State. Lawful husband / son of the said deceased.	JOSEPH GYANG PAM late of Plateau State. Died on 25th September, 2022 at Jos, Plateau State.	JOSEPH SAMUEL of COCIN Fagul Bukuru Express Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.
DAFUR LONGTONG DALONG late of Plateau State. Died on the 24th April, 2023 at JUTH, Plateau State.	DAFUR NANFWANG JOSIAH of NDLEA Murtala Moh. Airport Command Lagos. Lawful cousin of the said deceased.	GOCHIN MICAH DOS late of Plateau State. Died on the 26th March, 2023 at Jos, Plateau State.	GOCHIN JENNIFER BEYITMWA of Opposite New Legislative quarters Bauchi Ring Road Jos, Plateau State. Lawful daughter of the said deceased.	TOK ISHAKU DAVOU late of Plateau State. Died on the 5th June, 2016 at Vom Christian Hospital, Plateau State.	EZEKIEL ISHAKU CHOJI & DAVID ISHAKU CHOJI of Vwang, Jos South LGA, Plateau State. Lawful sons of the said deceased.
NANJI ISHAKU late of Plateau State. Died on the 16th February, 2019 at Langtang North LGA, Plateau State	TIMNAN BURNAN ISHAKU of NO 3 Bank flat Opp. Lands & Survey Jos Plateau State. Lawful son of the said deceased.	SPACE FOR SALE		SPACE FOR SALE	

Signed
(ANDRAWUS MAIKAI)
PROBATE REGISTRAR
PLATEAU STATE OF NIGERIA, JOS

Avoiding Judicial ambush by politicians



BY KENNETH DARENG

WITH the aftermath of the 2023 General elections, and as a common tradition with the outcome of every election circle in Nigeria after all is set and done, attention will definitely shift to the courts.

This is a time the Judiciary as usual becomes the last resort and hope for losers who would approach it for justice to be served in order to retrieve their mandate through the use of all available legal fire frameworks.

Perhaps sensing that the 2023 elections might be the toughest battle for the Nigerian political class as well as for the Judiciary in

view of the mirage of litigations that are likely going to accompany it, the Chief Justice of Nigeria [CJN], Justice Olukayode Ariwoola, had recently on three separate occasions issued serious warnings to politicians to refrain from interfering with the operations of the Judiciary.

The CJN who also spoke at the 2022 Conference of the Nigerian Bar Association on Public Interest and Development Law [NBA SPIDEL], said; "The electoral process has been set in motion and the 2023 elections are just stone throw away.

"We are fully aware that it is in a period like this that the executives or those seeking and aspiring for political positions will not threaten on the path of rule of law, the Electoral Act and the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, but will rather act on their whims and fancies to clinch to power.

"Interestingly, the Judiciary shall be at the centre stage of this to equipoise between the electoral players and further catalyse and administer justice, fairness and equity in the courts where their petitions shall flow."

According to the CJN, "past and present political regimes in Nigeria have not ceased to intervene and interfere in the premises of the Judiciary and have almost diluted its supposed

sanctity." He also accused the politicians of whittling down its powers and authority and tampering with its Independence and autonomy through various means.

The second time Justice Ariwoola warned was shortly after he was sworn in as the substantive CJN where he directed his plea to both politicians and other Nigerians urging them to allow the Judiciary to function because law is not static, and that is why you have seen that the National Assembly continues to amend laws. "And it is the laws that the courts apply to the facts available."

And for the third time during a reception organized in his honour by the Oyo state Government the CJN again warned the politicians, "Let them do their things and allow us do our things. The laws are not static. What we apply is the law as it is made. But our dockets are full. We have asked for an amendment to our Constitution over and over again.

"There are many matters that should not find their way to the Supreme Court in 2022. Many are indeed domestic matters of political parties. Why bring that to the court for us to adjudicate when your constitution has shown the way?"

Clearly, the signals coming from the CJN, is an indication that given the past experiences in the country and the embarrassing revelation made by some judicial



officers after the 2015 general elections where Judges gave details of how politicians pestered them to tilt or scale down justice in favour of some political interests and failure to abide could be met with dire consequences as was the case with the invasion of the residences of some Judges by the Department of State Services [DSS].

A recent report by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission [ICPC], Titled; "Nigeria Corruption Index: Report of a Pilot survey covering 2018-2019, placed the Judiciary on top of the Nigeria Corruption Index." The report estimated that N1.4 billion was exchanged in a bribe-for-judgement scheme in the Judicial sector between 2018 and 2019. It also stated that lawyers were mostly responsible for offering bribes for favourable judgements mostly in electoral and political matters.

Therefore, the CJN's persistent caution to the politicians might have been informed by the dangerous trend because as an insider operating at the pinnacle

of the nation's Judicial arm, apart from knowing what is going on, he also understands what is actually happening.

And to borrow from the words of Hon, Justice S.O. Uwaifo a former Supreme Court Judge, in his valedictory speech on January 24, 2005, opined that; "A corrupt Judge is more harmful to the society than a man who runs amok with a dagger in a crowded street. The later can be restrained physically. But a corrupt Judge deliberately destroys the moral foundation of the society and causes incalculable distress to individuals through abusing his office while still being referred to as honourable."

This also means that the Nigerian Judiciary has a crucial role to play in 2023 and beyond by resisting any attempt to play into the hands of some unpatriotic and selfish politicians. A just, fair and equitable Judiciary will at the very end be to the benefit of the politicians and indeed other Nigerians at large.



By DUMAH RANDONG

THE recent appointments of new Service Chiefs by President Bola Tinubu and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces was seen by Nigerians as the right step in the right direction. It is no doubt a departure from what we have witnessed in the past eight years. It will not only be an under statement but a crime against the state for anyone to project Nigerian state as a single faith by whatever claim and criteria he or she uses. A country with a population of over 200 thousand people, is a multi religious, ethnic and other regional affiliations.

The biggest problem associated with these issues when it comes to appointments is the lack of adherence to the Federal Character principles which stipulates that all the people must be represented. But over the years, this principle has been violated giving room for suspicion on the powers that be. The appointments of the present Service Chiefs reflects the realities in Nigeria. Whether you want to look at it from the ethnic or religious angle. Unlike in recent past where such appointments were made disregarding due process.

Against politicizing security in Nigeria

Taking a look at the appointments, it is fair to say that they are not only appropriate but patriotic looking at what has taken place in the past. As it were, you hardly would find the Service Chiefs being picked based on premodial consideration but on merit with regards to ethnic and religious biases. The Chief of Defence Staff for instance, Major General Christopher Gwabin Musa is of the Christian extraction from Southern Kaduna, Maj General Taoreed Abiodun Lagbaja, a Yoruba from the South West, Chief of Army Staff, Rear Admiral Emmanuel Ikechukwu Ogalla, Chief of Naval Staff, an Igbo from the South East as well as Air Vice Marshal Hassan (AVM) Bala Abubakar, the Chief of Air Staff, a Hausa-Fulani from the Northern part of the country and the Deputy Inspector General of Police, DIG, Kayode Ogbetukun, as the Acting Inspector General of Police while Adeniyi Bashir was also appointed as the Acting Comptroller General of Customs.

These appointments in the true sense of the word were devoid of sentiments which usually characterize such exercise in the past as far as the six geo-political zones of the country are concerned. Nigeria has never been so deeply divided before like in the last eight years of the Buhari administration. His leadership style was divisive in nature and this buttresses the comments made in different quarters that he wasn't a just leader but a pretender. So, some of his actions and attitude were responsible for the lopsided appointments carried out with impunity and nepotism. Nothing could have been responsible for this deep division most especially along ethnic and religious lines if not for this high handedness by the President who despite calls by different individuals and groups, remained adamant.

It's recalled that when the

immediate past President won the Presidential elections in 2015, people of goodwill in the country including both Christians and Muslims trekked far distances in solidarity with the Buhari victory, hoping that they have found in the Buhari a messiah who will salvage the country. To further boost their hope during his inaugural speech at the Eagle Square on 29th May, 2015, President Muhammadu Buhari said to the admiration of Nigerians that he belongs to nobody but to everybody. It then bits one's imagination if the President of a country could give such a reassuring speech not to live by it at the end of the day, then it goes to show that something is fundamentally wrong.

This alluded to the fact that the Buhari's administration only hoodwinked Nigerians into believing that he was a man of his words when he painted a picture of what he truly is not. Before the country's return to democracy, the military has kept to its tradition of securing the territorial integrity of the nation and never delved into politics. They have to some extent, remained apolitical professional institution until they were dragged into politics of some sorts. No wonder, there have been complaints in the internal security by the military while they were drafted to protect the citizens in the wake of security threats and insurrection in some parts of the country especially in the Middle-Belt posed by acts of terrorism, banditry and other criminal activities where allegations of complicity by personnels of the military in several attacks against the civilian population became rife. States where this ugly situation was persistently witnessed includes Plateau, Benue, Southern Kaduna, Taraba and a host of other places across the country.

Having had its fair of this imbroglia by the North East region of the country especially Borno, Yobe and Adamawa states, when the Boko

Haram issue started which lasted several years. A similar security problem started in the Northwest region which Kaduna state became the epicenter which was believed to be a result of the remnants of the jadists who were dislodged from the Northeast. Since then Kaduna state became almost a no go area until it spread to other states within the region. The people behind these activities were given different nomenclature such as bandits, kidnapers and terrorists who held sway inflicting havoc on locals and passersby on the Kaduna-Abuja way with Birnin Gwari as their base. The identity of these criminals were later to be known as the Fulani herdsmen. This is deliberate because they have not been officially pronounced as such.

Even Amnesty International has severally called on President Buhari for its declaration as a terrorists organization but until the time he the President, raising a lot of suspicion of being backed by the powers that be. Like the Boko Haram debacle, the banditry consumed the entire country leading to collapsed of many businesses in Nigeria. There were accusations and counter accusations as to the motive behind the killings going on. While some claimed it was a farmer-herder clash others believe that this was just a cover up. The agenda goes beyond that. It was an expansion move to take over the lands using these Fulani militia. Uptil today, this question is still begging for answers.

The Buhari administration did not care to deal with the problem head long as he kept telling Nigerians that the banditry will soon be brought to an end by bringing the perpetrators to book. No wonder, all calls by eminent people to declare the Fulani as a terrorists group by the Buhari government fell on deaf ears.

Two time Minister of Education and Health respectively, Professor

Ihechukwu Madubuike said the ex-President unlike any other President since the history of Nigeria, placed the interest of his ethnic Fulani above any other consideration. The former lawmaker and Commissioner for Finance in the Old Imo State, further said he would not be surprised if Buhari sacrificed national interest at the alter of ethnic, party or personal interests in some of his actions and inactions while in office. His words: Buhari was and is still an ethnic bigot. Everything Fulani was his interest. Anything that will advance the fortunes of the Fulani he will do, he achieved that through his party.

At the end of the day Nigeria must rank him as the most ethnic-chauvanist President that the country has ever produced. If Nigerians can have the courage to investigate the eight years of Buhari's leadership, then the outcome will determine what the next step will be. He was quoted to have raised these issues in the Vanguard of 1st July, 2023. The continued invasion of several communities in rural Communities without arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators leaves much to be desired. Nigerians deserve a radical change and a departure from the old order.

This is pertinent for the country's development. The marauding Fulani have wrecked havoc in this country for too long. They should know that no one has the monopoly of violence in this country. The President should consummate this with the appropriate orders being the Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces to avoid the avoidable situation as the case has always been. The Service Chiefs and the National Security Adviser, NSA, can not afford to fail Nigerians given the hope and expectations from President Tinubu to change the old order of this hostage position the country has been put into by the terrorists and other criminal elements.

By **ABDUSALAM MAHMUD**

IDIROKO Border Smuggling of goods into the country did not start this year, last year or the penultimate year. It has always been perpetrated by criminal elements and economic saboteurs. It is what the aforementioned have illegally carried out for decades, in our beloved country.

The smuggling business is a crime. Every where in the world. But in this part of the universe, it appears to be unending. It has, and continues to defy every practical solution.

Among the commodities and goods imported illegally into the country is rice, a staple carbohydrate food. Rice smuggling into Nigeria has since assumed a frightening proportion. The criminal activity has continued to damage the country's economy. Domestic production of the agricultural commodity, also, has since been hampered.

Personnel of the Nigeria Customs involved in anti-smuggling operations have lost their lives while engaging armed groups smuggling rice into the country. Reports abound of how the precious lives of some Nigerians have been cut short after consuming unhealthy and toxic rice varieties imported into the country.

Many citizens would not have forgotten about the 'plastic rice' brought into the country from China, in 2016. It took the intervention of the Customs to curb the inflow of the adulterated rice into Nigerian markets.

Another incident again happened in 2017, when the Federal Government (then) warned that there were some brands of poisonous foreign rice in circulation. Reacting then, Col. Hameed Ali (rtd), the Comptroller-General of Customs, described rice imported into Nigeria as poisonous, advising Nigerians to stop consuming it.

He had said: "A chemical must have been added to sustain its freshness and that chemical is harmful. Also, it has been re-bagged with a new date given as the production and expiry date and that is what we consume here which causes diseases.

"So, I appeal to Nigerians to please patronize our own rice; it is available, more nutritious and if you do that you will assist Customs by making sure these people are put out of business".

Illegal rice importation, Ali said, remains one of the biggest challenges facing the Nigeria Customs Service. As part of finding a permanent solution to the menace, a worried President Muhammadu Buhari in August 2019 ordered the closure of the country's border over illegal importation of drugs, arms and agricultural products into Nigeria from neighbouring West African countries.

But in December 2020, the immediate-past Nigerian leader, ordered the reopening of four land borders. For about a year that our land borders were shut local rice production was boosted. According to the Rice Processors Association of Nigeria, RIPAN, the Border Restriction Policy implemented by the Buhari government caused the demand for Nigerian

home-grown and locally-processed rice to increase quite immensely.

This caused an increase in both the production of paddy rice, as well as rice processing facilities. In 2020, during the COVID era, Nigeria farmers produced as much as 8.2 million tons of paddy rice and another 8.4 million tons in 2021. At the time, all of the paddy produced were taken by the rice processors/millers who

stopped at the figure given.

The NCS strides in tackling rice smuggling must be sustained. The Nigerian government should however know that some unscrupulous elements are bent on frustrating the anti-smuggling war of the Customs and advocacy of groups such as RIPAN.

About a week or even less, the old video showing how Customs personnel re-opened the Idiroko border in 2021 was everywhere



Idiroko border re-opening 'saga' and desperation of smugglers



processed them and supplied good quality finished rice to Nigerians.

Even as the borders were closed and the COVID pandemic raged on, Nigeria didn't suffer lack of food, particularly rice. The numbers in metric tons of paddy rice produced by Nigerian farmers began to decline after the borders were reopened in 2021, and smuggling commenced again in earnest, causing a drop in the volume of paddy offtake by the rice processors/millers.

It is on record that upon the reopening of our borders, official rice import to Benin republic from Thailand rose from meagerly monthly average of 5,000 metric tons in 2019, to a monthly average of 26,861 metric tons in 2022. Last month, PRNigeria reported that about 35,749 bags of foreign rice were impounded by the NCS, between January and April this year.

It is however due to the renewed war that personnel of the Customs launched to give rice smugglers a bloody noose, that the quantity of what were seized

on the social media. The mischievous elements behind the release of the old border re-opening video apparently wanted to denting the early days of President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, who they claimed ordered the re-opening immediately after taking over power.

But whatever was the goal of those who re-circulated the old video, it failed. First to disprove the authenticity of the video was the spokesperson of the Nigerian Customs, Abubakar Maiwada. Maiwada, in a chat with PRNigeria said Nigeria presently 'has no closed border.'

According to him, all the borders have been opened months ago to allow exports and imports. "All our major borders are open. The video showing the Idiroko border opening is a very old video that a mischief maker just repackaged to create a wrong narrative," he explained.

Meanwhile, the Area Controller of NCS in Ogun State, Mr Bamidele Makinde also dismissed the viral video. While addressing the newsmen in Abeokuta,

Makinde stated that the Idiroko Border had been reopened for import and export business since 2022.

While lending credence to the statements of the NCS officials, RIPAN accused enemies of the Nigerian economy of circulating the fake video. It said that those behind the video are individuals or groups who seek to undermine the new government and promote illegal activities such as rice smuggling, from Benin Republic, Cameroun and Niger Republic for their personal gain.

Andy Ekwelem, Director General of the organisation, in a statement obtained by PRNigeria, said their RIPAN is dedicated to supporting the efforts of the federal government to improve the food security well-being of Nigerians, and also, remain committed to facilitating communication and collaborations towards this goal.

Ekwelem urged the government and all stakeholders to remain watchful and to avoid falling prey to the machinations of those who seek to sabotage the nation's

economy, and exploit Nigeria's big brotherly role within the West African sub-region for their narrow interest.

It is imperative for the Nigerian Customs and other sister security agencies to sustain, and perhaps, increase the tempo of dealing with rice smugglers and other economic saboteurs. The damage these criminals have done to the country's economy is unimaginable. Citizens must not continue to battle all sorts of health challenges occasioned by consuming unhygienic foreign rice.

The circumstances surrounding the circulation of the old video, also needs to be thoroughly investigated. Those behind must be fished out, and made to face the music. That would send a message to their cohorts. Today and now, is the right time to wage another merciless battle against the unending importation of foreign rice in the country. It cannot be tomorrow.

Mahmud, the Deputy Editor of PRNigeria, wrote in via: babasalam1989@gmail.com

IMAGES

PLASCOFED CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE DAY

The Plateau State Cooperative Federation (PLASCOFED) on Saturday celebrated the 2023 International Cooperative Day with the theme: "Cooperatives for Sustainable Development" at the Rwang Pam Township Stadium, Jos



Plateau State Governor, represented by the Deputy, Hon. Josephine Piyo delivering the Governor's speech while High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola and PLASCOFED President, Mrs. Hannatu Paul Mershak listen with rapt attention



High Chief Tajudeen Oriyomi Ayeola (left) in a discussion mood with the PLASCOFED President, Mrs. Hannatu Paul Mershak



President, CFN, ICA, Africa, President, PLASCOFED conducting the Deputy Governor, Hon. Josephine Piyo round exhibition mounted by Local Government Multipurpose Cooperative Society



President, Micro Waves Multipurpose Cooperative Society of PRTVC, Bulus Sha flanked by other PLASCOFED members



PPC MCS during the match pass at the celebration



Permanent Secretary, Commerce and Industry, Mr. Fidelis Daboer with retired Permanent Secretary and Directors of the Ministry for Commerce and Industry



President and Cooperators of NTA Jos Cooperative Society in photograph



President, PPC MCS, Mrs. Jennifer Yarima (middle) with other cooperators at a reception at the PPC premises

Odd World

Mum puzzled as husband spells son's name wrong

A mum has shared her frustration after her husband repeatedly misspelt their son's name for the last five months since his birth - and all of his friends get it wrong as well

Mum holding baby boy, looking at husband He kept getting it wrong (stock phoot) (Image: Getty Images/iStockphoto)

When it comes to children's names, people will often butcher them and make spelling blunders, but if there's anyone you'd expect to get it right, it's their parents. However, one mum has been left bewildered after realising her husband has been misspelling their son's name for the last five months.

The unnamed parent took to Reddit's Name Nerds forum to share her bafflement over her partner's error, explaining that he's not the only one doing this, all of his friends have also been guilty of making the same mistake. The woman shared how she'd been wondering why pals kept spelling their son's name as Issac instead of Isaac, but it turned out it was all due to her husband. Mum kissing boy on forehead

The blunder was due to

autocorrect (stock photo) (Image: Getty Images/Tetraimages RF) Get the news you want straight to your inbox. Sign up for a Mirror newsletter here.

She wrote: "My son's name is Isaac. He is 5 months old. I've been wondering why all of my husband's friends spell it 'Issac'. Today I realised that they spell it that way because HE spells it that way.

"He announced it that way, that is how he refers to him in all his messages. He sends his grandma photo postcards and that is how he spells his name on those.

They added in the comments: "I did not expect these issues with such a common name!

"It has really p*ed me off! As a one-off it's fine, autocorrect is silly, haha etc. But it's every time and he's never noticed?! He hasn't even noticed that everyone else now does the same thing. Mind blown. If someone spells my baby's name wrong to me then I definitely notice... because he's my flipping baby!"

What is happening where you live? Find out by adding your postcode.

Hundreds of people have since responded to the

post, with many joking they hoped her husband hadn't filled out the birth certificate. Others shared their own stories of names being spelt wrong.

One said: "My cousin realised he'd been spelling his name 'wrong' when he was 16. His parents spelt it Zachery on his birth certificate but he was taught to spell it Zachary.

"They also spelt his sister's name as Haylee because they didn't know there was any other way to spell it (it's commonly spelt Hayley in Australia)."

Another replied: "My FIL spelt my husband's name wrong on the birth certificate. Best part? He's named after his dad. So, I have to ask him every time I fill something out bc I can't remember how it's spelt."

Someone else added: "My dad can't spell my name. And to make matters worse, he made my mom change the spelling she liked (which would have made the pronunciation of my name more intuitive). So, I have a name that is constantly mispronounced thanks to my dad who can't even spell my name."

Do you have a baby name story to share? We want to hear all about it.

The mirror.



Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani...

DEAR God, I am pained to the extent that I cannot stop tears following freely down my cheek each night my family is about going to bed. The glaring scenario of socio-economic retardation and political uncertainty have both cobwebbed my thoughts of hoping for a better tomorrow for our nation. These past weeks have not been easy for me even as the wicked and their cohorts have risen to consume me, us and the Christendom. I cannot have a sound sleep because of the obvious fact that the gates of hell has risen and is prevailing against us.

As it is, the Nigerian nation state has almost lost its fundamental bearing even as many erudite scholars have submitted far-reaching evidences including pragmatic indicators that this time around; the hand writings on the wall are clear, the center can no longer hold. Many unspeakable and unimaginable things are happening in our communities which are almost puncturing our salvation in the Lord. A few days ago, football enthusiasts gathered at the Abuja National Stadium to witness the second crucial leg of the world cup qualifiers match between the Black Stars of Ghana and the Super Eagles of Nigeria. Many had gathered in full confidence that no Jupiter would stop Nigeria from going to the 2022 World Cup extravaganza in Qatar.

After securing a draw in Ghana during the first leg of the encounter in Kumasi, soccer pundits had given the ticket without any doubt to our Nigerian representatives. As it unfortunately turned out to be however, the Super Eagles failed to fly the nation's flag thus generating great concern amongst soccer faithful in the country. For yours sincerely however, I had concluded even before the match commenced that securing the world cup ticket was not that which Nigeria needed considering the battalions of problems before us. I thought that going to the World Cup tournament would make a further mockery of us as a struggling nation in most recent times.

Some of us are presently convinced beyond reasonable doubt that almost nothing tangible is working in the country. Just this past Sunday, another unprovoked attack took place in Rosu and Arri all in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State where an unconfirmed number of innocent lives were killed. We cannot afford to also forget the unabated killings of innocent lives in Kaduna which is another unpleasant tale all together.

It looks as if these unabated security circumstances in both local government areas have defiled possible pragmatic solutions. But again, in the past few months, all tertiary institutions in this country have been under lock and key. Sad enough, all attempts aimed at settling the problems between the Federal Government and striking lecturers are still but a tremendous hallucination.

Many social commentators and experts are of the opinion that what we need at this particular crucial moment is for our students to get back to their classrooms to avoid spending more delayed excruciating years at their institutions of learning across the nation. Before now, the citizens of this country had the ample opportunity to select any means of

transportation to travel and see their loved ones or spend holidays in this country. Today, it is seemingly a different narrative as the citizens cannot move from point A to point B without any fear of molestation, kidnaping with ransom or instantly killed by hoodlums with impunity in the country.

From my humble assessment of unfolding developments in the country, I am in deep thoughts as to whether the unpalatable experiences of the war in Ukraine is but easier to comprehend and adapt too than the excruciating ugly developments in Nigeria. Just take a look at the most recent Kaduna-Abuja train attack and you will be ashamed as a Nigerian. Most annoying is the fact that despite the intelligence reports earlier issued by some security agencies, no one deemed it fit to investigate and or put in place any concrete preventive mechanism to this effect.

As if this was not enough, in broad daylight, terrorists invaded the Kaduna International Airport where planes were halted from embarking on their anticipated journeys to all parts of the country. As the situation is; these terrorists have proven that no journey either by air, rail, car and or our waterways is secured. This equally means that the citizens of this country are in serious trouble for no fault of theirs.

At this very moment, we all need a Nigeria where there is enough food for all, a nation where the laws of the land should be respected by both the rich and the poor. We certainly don't need a nation where its citizens would be living from hand to mouth. Regrettably today, more than half of the people of this nation cannot comfortably afford three square meals a day.

Even in the middle of this inflation heat, our leaders are still play tricks on us, painting a fallacious picture of economic stability which never is. Our leaders are no longer perturbed about the increasing number of killings which has overwhelmed this country. Lord, I just pray that our leaders with all sincerity of purpose and responsibility wake up from their slumber to comprehend the fact that our nation has crossed the red lines.

In more definitive terms, our leaders must begin to find lasting solutions to the issue of these unabated killings, kidnaping, insurgency, banditry or acts of sabotage including consistent cases of corruption and acts of personnel aggrandizement enveloping the country.

We as a nation must end this unpalatable dehumanizing inflation rate where the cost of living is already beyond the reach of the common man. Let's not pretend, we cannot continue to deceive ourselves that everything is on the right track in Nigeria when we equally know that things are in complete shambles.

Almighty God, this is not the kind of Nigeria we all anticipated for, this is not the kind of country we prayed for, a nation where we cannot sleep with our eyes closed due to the administrative ingenuity of our leaders aimed at tacking the security challenges bedeviling this country amongst others. I am wondering my Lord, Eloi, Eloi, Lama Sabachthani...

View Point

ECOWAS Must rise against coup d'Etat

- Tinubu

By:
AINA OJONUGWA



Tinubu

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu has warned that the threat to peace in West Africa had reached an alarming proportion with terrorism and an emerging pattern of military takeover that now demands urgent and concerted actions.

Tinubu spoke on Sunday, at the 63rd Ordinary Session of the Authority of Heads of State and Government of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau.

THEWILL reports that the Nigerian leader, who is the latest entrant into the exclusive club of Heads of State in West Africa, emerged as the new Chairman of ECOWAS.

A statement issued by Dele Alake, his Special Adviser on Special Duties, Communication and Strategy, said the President accepted the honour on behalf of Nigeria, with a solemn pledge to bear the responsibility of the office and run an inclusive administration of the regional organisation.

Noting that insecurity and creeping terrorism were stunting the progress and development of the region, Tinubu called for collective action from member-states, pledging that under his leadership, frameworks would be harmonised to actualise the dreams of ECOWAS.

"On peace and security, the threat has reached an alarming level and needs urgent actions in addressing the challenges. Indeed, without a peaceful environment, progress and development in the region will continue to remain elusive. In this regard, we must remain committed to the utilisation of all regional frameworks at our disposal to address the menace of insecurity," he declared.

The President noted that ECOWAS had developed a security architecture, which "covers a wide range of areas that involved kinetic and non-kinetic operations, including preventive diplomacy. There is also the Regional Plan of Action on Fight against Terrorism 2020-2024, as well as the operationalisation of the ECOWAS Standby Force on Fight Against Terrorism.

"I will ensure that we immediately harmonise these plans and mobilise resources, as well as the political will towards the actualisation of the initiatives. As terrorists do not respect boundaries, we must work collectively to have an effective regional counterterrorism measure," he further stated.

On his emergence as Chairman

on his first participation at the summit, having just started as the elected leader of Nigeria, President Tinubu stated that he was humbled and honoured by the trust to assume the leadership of the regional body, pledging his commitment to serve the interest of the community.

He said: "Indeed, I'm humbled and honoured by this trust, and want to assure you of my unalloyed commitment to provide the necessary leadership with dedication to serve the interest of the community."

To underscore his commitment towards regional integration, the Nigerian leader declared that he would prioritise political stability, peace and security, regional economic integration and strengthening of the ECOWAS institutions, declaring that democracy and good governance remain the abiding cornerstone of peace and sustainable development.

While decrying the emerging pattern of coup d'etat in West Africa where soldiers have truncated the popular mandate, President Tinubu charged ECOWAS to stand firm in defence of democracy.

"We must stand firm on democracy. There is no governance, freedom and rule of law without democracy. We will not accept coup after coup in West Africa again. Democracy is very difficult to manage but it is the best form of government.

"There is no one here among us who did not campaign to be

a leader. We didn't give our soldiers resources, we didn't invest in them, in their boots, in their training to violate the freedom of the people. To turn their guns against civil authorities is a violation of the principles upon which they were hired, which is to defend the sovereignty of their nations. We must not sit in ECOWAS as toothless bulldogs," the President warned.

On political stability, he said: "You will all agree with me that democracy and good governance are the cornerstones of peace and sustainable development of every society. I'm fully committed to deepening democracy and good governance in the region.

"We must strengthen our democratic institutions and ensure the respect for human rights and the rule of law. I will enhance engagements with the countries in transition to ensure their quick return to democratic rule."

The new ECOWAS Chairman called for improved private sector participation in the effort towards the economic development of Member States as well as their social integration.

"We would work collectively to pursue an inclusive economic integration, which will be significantly private sector driven, in order to unlock the vast economic potentials of our region. We would actively promote trade, investment, and business cooperation among Member States by addressing the barriers impeding intra-regional trade, as well as creating a conducive business environment.

"We must encourage economic partnerships to raise the level of trade and investments in our region, hence facilitating employment creation and sustainable development and prosperity for our citizens.

"To this end, we must look inward and work with our regional economic facilitation platforms such as the Federation of West Africa Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FEWACCI) as well as the ECOWAS Trade Organisation Network to attain our desired goals," he added.

President Tinubu assured the regional leaders of the immediate implementation of his vision for the body, declaring that: "In furtherance of my vision for our region's economic recovery and growth, Nigeria intends to convene an ECOWAS Extra-Ordinary Summit on Trade and Investment in October 2023.

The event will provide an opportunity for Member States to showcase their potentials and encourage match-making, in order to

evolve business cooperation among the various organised private sectors within the region," he added, while calling for the strengthening of the institutions of the body.

"In the area of strengthening our Organisation's Institutions and ensuring effective performance, we underscore the need for the conclusion of the ongoing institutional reforms of the organisation.

"Given that Community Levy remained the biggest source of generating funds to run our organisation, we must ensure that our citizens being taxed must be positively impacted by the programmes and projects of ECOWAS. This is in line with the shift of the ECOWAS slogan from 'ECOWAS of State' to 'ECOWAS of People,'" President Tinubu emphasised.

He appreciated the Authority of Heads of State and citizens of the Community for trusting him to lead the West African body, saying, "Your Excellencies, let me conclude by, once again, deeply appreciating the Authority of Heads of State and the citizens of the Community for your trust in me. Together, we can shape a brighter future of shared values of peace, democracy, and economic prosperity in our region."

In his welcome address, the outgoing ECOWAS Chairman and President of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, Umaro Mokhtar Sissoco Embalo, saluted his fellow leaders for sustaining the vision of the organisation despite the global economic headwinds and trouble spots within the region.

He cited Mali, Burkina Faso and the Republic of Guinea as countries where the constitutional order had been distorted while congratulating Nigeria and Sierra Leone for sustaining constitutional order through the democratic process with the recent successful elections.

AUCTION NOTICE		
THE NIGERIA POLICE PLATEAU STATE COMMAND JOS PANKSHIN DIVISIONAL HEADQUARTERS EXHIBITS DUE FOR AUCTION 25/04/2023		
S/No.	Number	TYPES OF EXHIBITS
1	CER:19/2020	Receiving stolen property: One scrap Generator four bicycles, Two Wheel Barrows, and one Filling Machine
2	CER:20/2020	Abandoned motorcycles: One black Jincheng motorcycle with chasis No.LJCPMAG2HOASA45M6 and blue Jincheng motorcycle with chasis No.LJCPAGLOA5M953
3	CER:29/2020	Criminal conspiracy and theft: Thirty six (36) empty crates of beer
4	CER:30/2020	Abandoned properties: One Audi Vehicle with Reg. No RYM 695 AA, cash sum of N100, one Benatone Iron, three stoves, one gas cylinder, black bag contain stool, brown bag, one food flask, two mattresses, a small brown bag contain some keys. a Salk contain five (5) pots, one umbrella and pair of shoe.
5	CER:03/2021	Theft: One black scrap DVD
6	CER:04/2021	Stolen property: One Blue stabilizer and one black laptop
7	CER:05/2021	Being in possession of properties reasonable suspected to be stolen: Two Jincheng motorcycle without registration number
8	CER:06/2021	Theft: One Lifan motorcycle with chasis NO. LAYPCJCAA01830
Note: Owners are to claim their properties within one week of this publication		
Signed: ADUMU YAHAYA, Auctioneer		

News

Poly withdraws 313 students over poor academic performance

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

THE Academic Board of Kogi State Polytechnic, Lokoja, has approved the withdrawal of 313 students over poor academic performance in the first semester of 2022/2023 academic session.

The withdrawal followed the consideration of the report of the Academic Board Central Result Verification Committee at the meeting of the Board held on 22nd June, 2023 at the 200 Twin Lecture Theater, Main Campus, Lokoja.

According to the statement signed by the polytechnic's Public Relations Officer, Uredo Omale, which was made available to journalists in Lokoja recently, the breakdown of the withdrawal is from seventeen (17) departments and twenty-eight (28) programmes.

Chaired by the Rector of the Polytechnic, Dr. Salisu



Yahaya

Ogbo Usman, the Board disclosed that the decision was part of the resolve to maintain high academic standard and breed worthy academic ambassadors.

Dr. Usman thanked the chairman and members of the Central Result Verification Committee and the entire members of the Academic Board for their continued support and sustenance of academic

standard. He charged Deans of Schools and Heads of Departments and units to provide dependable leadership at all times.

He, however, charged students to make adequate use of the available facilities for learning, just as he charged them to be law abiding and shun all social vices within and outside the campus.

A socio-cultural and pressure group, the Ebara People's Forum (EPF) has expressed their confidence in the capacity of President Bola Tinubu to complete Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL) and get it running.

The EPF's President, Mr Jimoh Ahmed, disclosed this at the stakeholders' meeting held at Ajaokuta company's complex.

According to Ahmed, the forum believes that the completion of Ajaokuta Steel Company is key to realising President Tinubu's vision of positioning Nigeria as one of the industrialised nations worldwide.

The group expressed concern over the company's inactivity, but opined that Tnubu's administration possesses the strong determination to revitalise the moribund steel company.

They are optimistic that the company, once operational, would have the capacity to create 10,000 direct employment and 500,000 indirect employment for the youth population.

We are confident, Tinubu will revive ailing ASCL - EPF

From AMEDU JOSEPH, Lokoja

Ahmed added that the steel company when functional, would reduce importation of iron rods and flat sheets, as well as an improvement in power generation within the country.

He therefore called on President Tinubu to use his global connections to make Ajapkuta Steel Company functional.

The forum expressed its deep appreciation to key individuals involved in the process of reviving the steel company, particularly Governor Yahaya Bello,

and the Sole Administrator of ASCL, Engr Abdul Akaaba.

The Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited (ASCL), is one of the steel mills in Nigeria located in Ajaokuta Local Government Area of Kogi.

ASCL was established as a Federal Government initiative to boost the nation's economy.

However, in spite of being conceived over four decades ago, the steel company has been unable to commence full operations.



Tinubu

Security operatives rescue 24 kidnapped victims, a baby

By DORCAS PANKYES

IN a successful rescue operation, troops of the 223 Battalion, operating under Sector 1 of the Joint Task Force, North West Operations Hadarin Daji, saved 24 kidnapped victims, including a child, and eliminated four abductors during a shootout.

The operation took place in the early hours of the day recently in Kabugu Lamba, an abandoned village in the Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State, North West Nigeria.

Led by the Commanding Officer of the Battalion, the gallant troops stalked and swooped on the notorious bandits, engaging them in a ferocious firefight.

The rescue mission proved to be a success as the troops not only neutralized four of the criminals but also extricated and evacuated the 24 victims. Among the rescued individuals were nine females and fourteen males, with one of them being a minor.

This operation marks a significant achievement in the ongoing efforts to combat banditry and kidnappings in the region. The swift action and bravery displayed by the troops demonstrate their dedication and commitment to ensuring

the safety and security of the citizens.

The successful rescue of the kidnapped victims brings hope and relief to their families and the entire community. It serves as a reminder of the tireless efforts being made by the Nigerian military to rid the

nation of criminal elements and restore peace to affected areas.

The Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Onyema Nwachukwu, commended the troops for their bravery and successful operation. The Nigerian Army

continues to remain steadfast in its commitment to protecting the lives and property of the people, and this rescue mission is a testament to their dedication and effectiveness in executing their mandate.

Gov Kefas declares free education in Taraba

From VICTOR GAI, Jalingo

TARABA State Governor, Dr. Agbu Kefas recently declared free education in all state government primary and secondary

schools with effect from the next academic session.

Kefas made the declaration while on an assessment tour of primary and secondary schools in Wukari Local Government

Area. He declared that from the next academic session, primary and secondary education in Taraba would be free.

The governor also noted that his administration would immediately embark

on massive renovation of most of the schools to make them meet the demands of modern day education.

"Let me announce to you that by next academic

session, the state government will take responsibility for the school fees and all of you will attend school free of charge.

"We will continue to support you to have access to qualitative education for a brighter future for our state," he said.

The Zonal Director of Education, Mr Daniel Nuhu, lauded Governor Kefas for making time to personally assess the condition of public schools in the state.

Nuhu noted that the free education and renovation of primary and secondary schools would go a long way in turning around the fortunes of the less privileged in the state by granting them equal access to quality education.

The Nigerian Standard reports that Governor Kefas had recently declared a state of emergency on primary and secondary education and slashed the school fees of Taraba University and that of College of Nursing and Midwifery Jalingo by 50 per cent.

Pregnant wife stabs husband to death

From ABBAS GUNGURA, Abuja

BAUCHI Police Command has confirmed the arrest of one Maimunatu Sulaiman, a housewife, age 21yrs old of Kofar Dumi area in Bauchi metropolis for allegedly culpable homicide.

Maimunatu was said to have stabbed her husband, Aliyu Mohammed as a result of what was reported as altercation that ensued between them.

According to report from the Police, "Acted on information received on 5th July 2023 at about 2340hrs, the detectives attached to the Township

Divisional Police headquarters, led by the Divisional Police Officer immediately rushed to the crime scene of the incident at the given address'.

The statement signed by the Bauchi Police Command, Acting PPRO, ASP Aminu Goma Ahmed, said that the operatives on arrival took both the victim and the suspect to the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Teaching Hospital (ATBUTH), Bauchi for medical attention.

"Consequently, reports obtained from medical doctors confirmed that the victim died as a result of an injury sustained on his chest, while the suspect sustained minor bruises on her stomach", Ahmed said.

Police preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect (Maimuna Suleiman) stabbed her husband, Aliyu Mohammad of the same address as a result of an altercation that ensued between them on the 5th of July, 2023 in their matrimonial home.

The suspect had during interrogation confessed to having committed the offence, following which the Commissioner of Police, 32CP Auwal Musa Mohammad directed that the case be transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) for a discreet investigation.

This, according to the commissioner, is to further

unravel the circumstances that surround the death of the victim, after which the suspect will be charged to court upon completion of the investigation.

Another source of information received by our correspondent on the circumstance however, revealed that the incident occurred as a result of the late husband's intention to take a second wife.

The Nigeria Standard also gathered that they have a three-year old child and the wife is also pregnant when the incident happened as a result of the husband's desire to take a second wife while initially they were living in peace and harmony.

Sports

Hughes is flying, chasing World Championships success

It was, he admits, a surreal time but he has since become good friends with the two fastest men in history, who would frequently address him as 'captain' and 'skipper' down at the famous Racers Track Club in Kingston. "They were the athletes that inspired me to be the athlete that I am today," says Hughes. "Being in their presence only motivated me to work even harder. "These guys were already at the top. To see the work ethic they had, the tenacity day in, day out and the way they pushed each other, I was just happy to be around those guys, they're legends." HARRY POOLE, writes.



Zharnel Hughes is the fastest man in the world this year, and broke the British 100m record in June

IN addition to having the same base and coach, comparisons between Hughes and Bolt have naturally followed because of their similar frames.

Both comfortably over 6ft tall, such height makes a clean, quick start difficult.

Fortunately for Hughes, his coach is well versed in harnessing that apparent disadvantage.

"He knows what it takes to be up there with the greatest guys in the world. I respect him highly and he is like a father figure," Hughes says of Mills, who has focused on the athlete's running mechanics - particularly out of the blocks.

"Coach has said to me many times that me and Usain have similar traits, which he is accustomed to.

"We're not bullet starters like everyone else but once we get upright and into our running, we are going to be powering down the track. That's what he likes to see."

It was announced on Thursday that Fred Kerley and Noah Lyles, the reigning world champions over 100m and 200m respectively, will join Hughes when he competes over the longer distance at the London Diamond League on 23 July.

It's a challenge which the fastest man in the world this year is relishing as he builds towards the World Championships in Budapest in August and, while not an outright target, he admits achieving a second British record in as many months, on home soil, would be "very exciting".

The Briton was speaking before securing a sprint double at the UK Championships in Manchester, which also included the world trials.

"I have fun now and I'm more relaxed because I work hard," he says.

"These are the moments to go out there and show to the world that I've been working.

"I'm so grateful that I was able to achieve something I've wanted to achieve for a long time. At the same time, the job isn't done yet, but everything is coming together right now."

"If you can dream it, you can achieve it," Zharnel Hughes wrote on Instagram, after running 9.83 seconds to break Linford Christie's 30-year British 100m record.

Not only did the 27-year-old dream it but, prior to his race in New York, Hughes had written down that he would make history by clocking that exact time.

The reigning European 200m champion took 0.04 secs off the previous record of 9.87 on Saturday, a mark which Christie had set at the World Championships in 1993.

Hughes' new record is the fastest time in the world this year, and the second fastest ever by a European athlete.

Only Italy's Marcell Jacobs, who ran 9.80 to win Olympic gold in Tokyo in 2021, has run faster.

He initially looked to be in disbelief after seeing his time - despite doing just as he had predicted.

"I woke up with a dream this morning," Hughes said. "This morning I woke up with 9.83 on my mind.

"When I looked at the clock and saw 9.83, I don't know if you saw my reaction, but I was like: 'What just happened there?' It actually came through.

"Manifestation is real."

He later shared a photo of his prediction, which read: "Competition day in New York. I'm going to run 9.83. Have faith."

'I've not even started speed work yet' - Hughes hints at more to come

Christie remains the only British man to have ever won World Championship 100m gold, with that victory in Stuttgart arriving a year after Olympic gold at Barcelona 1992.

Hughes said he was looking forward to seeing Christie "shaking his hand and telling him that this is long overdue".

"I always give respect to Linford. He always supports me every time I'm in the UK, and sometimes he helps out with my training sessions,"

Hughes said.

It is 20 years since a British man made the world 100m podium, since Darren Campbell won bronze in Paris in 2003.

Hughes will take great confidence from his performance with less than two months until the World Championships in Budapest.

The Briton powered away from the field in impressive fashion over the final 50m, beating Jamaica's Ackeem Blake (9.93) to clinch victory at the New York Grand Prix.

Saturday's race also featured American 2019 world 100m champion Christian Coleman, who finished third in 10.02.

After Hughes, the next fastest times in the world so far this year have been recorded by Kenya's Ferdinand Omanyala (9.84secs) and the United States' reigning world champion Fred Kerley (9.88secs).

Hughes, whose personal best had been 9.91 since 2018, is coached by Glen Mills - the man who helped retired Jamaican sprinting legend Usain Bolt win his eight Olympic medals.

Mills is the head coach of the Racers Track Club in Kingston, Jamaica, which was also the home of 2011 world 100m champion Yohan Blake - the second fastest man in history behind Bolt.

"Anything is possible," said Hughes.

"The great thing is, we haven't started speed work yet, so this is just raw speed and endurance. My coach is going to be elated."

Before thinking about the worlds, the UK Championships - which double as the trials for a place in the worlds team - will take place in Manchester on 8-9 July.

It was first thing on Sunday morning that Eugene Amo-Dadzie - the self-styled world's fastest accountant - heard the knock on his front door.

Blery-eyed having only returned from his life-changing trip to Austria late the night before, he excitedly jumped out of bed and hurried to welcome his early visitors.

"As soon as I saw their credentials I was buzzing," says Amo-Dadzie, of the UK Anti-Doping (Ukad) officers standing on his doorstep asking him to provide a urine sample. "It's validation of your achievement."

At 30, Amo-Dadzie is the oldest new kid on the block British sprinting has ever seen.

Despite only taking up athletics when he was 26, his astonishing 9.93-second performance in Graz, Austria, last week means he is now the quickest 100m runner in Europe this year by some margin. The time also places him fourth on the British all-time list.

Not bad for a full-time accountant with no sponsors or funding. "If you know anyone at Nike, Adidas, New Balance, Puma, Asics or anywhere else then send them my way," he jokes.

Amo-Dadzie's athletics story is one of two distinct beginnings, the second - and most significant - of which came in summer 2018 when he and his lifelong friend stumbled across a local track meeting after playing football in east London.

Watching the 100m, his friend turned to Amo-Dadzie and bluntly said: "You could put a pair of spikes on and beat these guys. Why haven't you tried this properly before?"

Amo-Dadzie had no real answer. He had always been quick, competing for his secondary school - which he left with a personal best of 11.3 seconds - despite never training or joining a local club.

His plans to join the athletics team while studying at the University of Nottingham disintegrated amid the distractions of student life. "Let's just say track and field quickly fell down my list of priorities," he says, with a laugh.

While his friends would gently tease him for wasting his express speed on opposition defenders in amateur football, he was content to follow athletics from afar while telling himself he could have made it if only he had committed. On that afternoon in east London, he belatedly decided to give it a shot.

Within a year of his first training session at Woodford Green Athletics Club, he reached the British Championships semi-finals, racing against Olympians Adam Gemili and Harry Aikines-Aryeetey.

That debut season brought a personal best of 10.55, which he then lowered to 10.20 in 2021 and 10.05 the following year.

A first British vest arrived this March at the European Indoor Championships, where he reached the 60m semi-finals, but few outside his immediate circle had any inkling of what was to come in Graz last Friday evening, where he blitzed the field in almost entirely windless conditions.

"I got a really good reaction, a really good start and then it was like 'Do not let your foot off the gas'," he says. "I got into my upright running and I literally felt like I was flying.

"I leaned towards the line, looked over, saw the time began with a nine and went crazy. I just went mad. God willing, I will run that many more times, but you only get the first one once. It was one of the best days of my life."

In a sport where supporters are used to being burned by things that seem too good to be true, some have cast shade on a relative unknown 30-year-old suddenly running such a fast time.

But Amo-Dadzie says criticism does not faze him, welcoming the chance to be added to the rigorous whereabouts anti-doping system reserved for the highest rank of elite athlete.

"There are always people who are sceptical of great things that people achieve," he says. "If you know my story and have been following me then it makes sense.

"I'm a big, big supporter of clean athletics. Ukad are more than welcome to break my door down. My wife will tell you how excited I was when they banged on the door the first time.

"It's validation of all the hard work. They are not going to test someone who is running 10.8. If I want to be a professional athlete, this is what comes with that."

The switch to turning professional is surely inevitable, although this week he is back fitting training sessions around work as a senior management accountant for a property company.

He is on track for an individual spot on the British team for August's World Championships, where he also hopes to make the 4x100m squad for the first time.

One question remains - something more people are asking him with every giant leap he makes. Does he wonder what he might have achieved if he had taken athletics seriously 15 years or more ago?

"No. Easy answer," he says. "If I was 18, showed a bit of potential and got a deal, I feel like I might not have realised that potential.

"I feel like I came into the sport at the right time. The head that I had on my shoulders at that time has allowed me to navigate this thing in a sensible way.

"I very much enjoy that I have a different story. I still refer to myself as an accountant that happens to operate in the world of track and field."

Surely, no longer. He is now a sprinter who happens to be an accountant.

Sports



Mbaoma

Done deal: Victor Mbaoma joins Rwandan champions APR FC

NIGERIAN striker Victor Mbaoma has completed his transfer to Rwandan side APR FC, leaving Katsina United after a very short stint at the club.

Mbaoma, who joined Katsina United ahead of the NNL Playoffs, scored all of the Chanji Boys' goals as they finished second in the Northern Conference to secure a return to the NPFL. The former Remo Stars and Enyimba striker netted four goals in three appearances for Katsina United in the

playoffs. The 26-year-old striker joins CAF Champions League-bound Armeec Patriotic Rwandaise FC on a two-year deal for a salary of around #2.7m monthly. APR are the current league champions and the most successful club team in Rwandan football.

Mbaoma topped the scoring charts for Enyimba in NPFL22 before moving to USM Alger, but things did not work out well for the

lanky striker in North Africa and he embarked on a brief sojourn to Uzbekistan before finally returning to Katsina United. He was linked with a host of big teams in Nigeria before he decided to switch to Rwanda.

With 51 goals to his name in his NPFL career, Victor Mbaoma may end up facing one of his former sides, Enyimba or Remo Stars, in the CAF Champions League next season.

2023 FIBA AfroCAN: D'Tigers bow to hosts Angola



NIGERIA'S D'Tigers were at the receiving end of a defeat at the hands of their Angolan counterparts, who claimed a 57-48 win in their second group meeting at the ongoing FIBA AfroCAN tournament in Angola.

After a comprehensive win in their opener against Mali, the Nigerian contingent were up against the hosts with direct qualification for the quarterfinals up for grabs. Both teams had defeated Mali in their respective

meetings before facing each other.

The hosts were up for the game from tip-off as they dominated the Nigerian team on the floor, opening up a ten-point lead within the first quarter as the D'Tigers struggled to measure up, and the quarter ended 19-9 to Angola.

The second quarter was more of the same from Angola as they extended their lead by nine further points to put the D'Tigers in an impossible situation by half-time as they were

down 40-21.

The third quarter saw the D'Tigers perform much better, staying in the game and trying to make things happen. They managed to cut their opponents' lead to 16 points, with the score 49-33 heading into the fourth quarter.

The D'Tigers finally came alive in the fourth quarter, recording their highest points total of any quarter and restricting Angola to just eight points. Ultimately, it

FAME Foundation, a Nigerian NGO, has announced a partnership with the French Embassy in Nigeria in preparation for the Olympic/Paralympics Games in 2024.

The partnership, known as the Play it Dream it Initiative, aims to promote the inclusion of young and vulnerable people through sport and provide them with valuable life skills.

The agreement was signed by Inyene Idiong, Communications Officer, Fame Foundation as part of Fame Foundation's commitment to creating more opportunities for youth. The projects under this partnership include the National BreakDance Championship in five Nigerian states, a para

Foundation partners French Embassy to support youth

By DORCAS PANKYES

soccer competition, a para weightlifting competition, and workshops on girl-child education and menstrual health hygiene.

The aim is to empower youths, athletes, and promote crucial social causes. The French Embassy in Nigeria is committed to uniting young people around the values of the 2024 Paris Olympics and demonstrating the power of sports to bring about change. The projects are financed by the Solidarity

Fund for Innovative Projects of the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

The statement quoted that "Fame Foundation remains steadfast in its mission to empower women and girls. And also, with these projects, we aim to encourage athletes, promote social inclusion, and contribute to a brighter future for Nigerians.

It aims to support initiatives in the areas of democratic governance, culture, French, higher education, and research"

2023 Wimbledon Alcaraz, Djokovic, Jabeur storm last eight

WORLD number one Carlos Alcaraz became the second Spaniard after Rafael Nadal to reach the quarterfinals at Wimbledon before turning 21 as he defeated Matteo Berrettini in four sets at the 2023 Wimbledon Championship. The 20-year-old Spaniard claimed a 3-6 6-3 6-3 6-3 win after coming from a set down to demolish his

Italian opponent.

Novak Djokovic rounded off his victory over Hubert Hurkacz to reach the quarterfinals of the 2023 Wimbledon Championship, dropping his first set of the tournament against the Pole. Djokovic won the match 7-6 7-6 5-7 6-4 to progress.

Sixth seed Holger Rune fought back from a set down to defeat Grigor Dimitrov and reach the quarterfinals at Wimbledon. The Dane won the meeting 3-6 7-6 7-6 6-3 to book a quarterfinal meeting with Alcaraz.

Christopher Eubanks stunned Stefanos Tsitsipas to reach the quarterfinals of the competition with a five-set win in their fourth round meeting. The American came back from a set down to defeat the fifth seed 3-6 7-6 3-6 6-4 6-4 and progress from their tie.

Third seed Daniil Medvedev qualified for the quarterfinals after opponent Jiri Lehecka was forced off with an injury after two sets in their fourth round meeting. The Russian was leading 6-4 6-

2 after two sets before his opponent retired due to injury.

In the women's draw, sixth seed Ons Jabeur made light work of ninth seed Petra Kvitova, dispatching the Czech star in straight sets 6-0 6-3 to reach the last eight.

Second seed Aryna Sabalenka faced 21st seed Ekaterina Alexandrova and claimed a win in straight sets to reach the quarterfinals of the 2023 Wimbledon Championship. Sabalenka defeated her opponent 6-4 6-0 in the clash.

Third seed Elena Rybakina qualified for the last eight after her opponent Beatriz Haddad Maia was forced off injured in their fourth round clash. Rybakina held a 4-1 lead in the first set before her opponent's retirement.

16-year-old star Mirra Andreeva was sent crashing out by 25th seed Madison Keys in their fourth round meeting, with the American battling to a win in three sets. Andreeva won the first set before Keys recovered to win 3-6 7-6 6-2 and reach the last eight.



Sports

'I'd love to be the next generation player' -Larkin

When the Republic of Ireland's World Cup squad was announced there were lots of tears - both happy and sad. For Abbie Larkin, it was the stuff of dreams. The 18-year-old is the youngest member of Vera Pauw's squad and, despite her tender years, she is already a role model for the next generation. JANA MCCABE, writes.

"It's such a fairytale, a dream come true really," said Larkin. "The girls back home are shouting my name, asking for pictures and autographs and I'm like 'this is amazing'.

"Even at my home club, the amount of girls who know me is crazy. I never would have thought that, especially at this age. It's an amazing feeling and I'm honoured to be able to have that feeling. I'm grateful and will never take that stuff for granted."

When the forward was asked if being a role model was important, she replied: "100%, that's my goal. I'd love to be one for the next generation to look up to."

The teenager is one of four forwards named in the Republic's 23-strong squad, with three reserves also making the trip to Australia.

Larkin has seven caps for the Republic of Ireland's senior side, and scored her first goal during their 9-0 victory away to Georgia in June 2022.

The Dubliner moved to Shamrock Rovers after a successful season at Shelbourne in which they became National League and FAI Cup champions.

"I don't think any words can describe it. It's just an amazing feeling and, at this age, I would have never expected it," added Larkin.

"When Vera said it to us, I literally started crying and then some of the girls started crying as well and I was like, 'oh my God, I can't stop these tears from coming out'.

"Then I called my dad - he



Larkin

started crying, then my mum started crying! It was a bunch of tears, but happy tears.

"I think I need to try to let it sink in a little bit more because I don't think it's hit me yet that I'm going to a World Cup. It's a crazy feeling, but I'm so proud and honoured. It's so overwhelming in a good way and the support the girls have is amazing.

"I'm honoured to be able to go to the World Cup. It's nice to know Vera has belief and faith in me and I think that it has given me more confidence myself and

I'm believing more in myself lately, so it's great."

The Republic flew out on Friday to Australia, which is co-hosting the Women's World Cup with New Zealand.

Their first game will be against Australia at a sold-out 82,500 Stadium Australia, in Sydney, on 20 July. African champions Nigeria and Olympic gold medallists Canada are the other two teams competing in a strong Group B.

Larkin is just one of two home-based players to make the squad, along with Rovers team-mate Aine O'Gorman.

The talented youngster made her first senior appearance for the Republic against Russia in 2022 and has been a squad regular since. She started the friendly win over Zambia, which was the last game before the World Cup squad was announced.

"Every girl in this room has supported me so much, even when I first came into this team. It's such a big welcome and its kind of like family this team and its such a homely feeling," added the Dubliner.

"Obviously, I'm so young so I'd be nervous coming into camps but they're all amazing and they make me feel comfortable.

"Katie [McCabe] is an unbelievable captain and person as well and is obviously such a role model.

"I did look up to her when I was younger as well, so even to be in the same team as her now going to the World Cup is amazing."

Abbie Sheila Larkin (born 27 April 2005) is an Irish professional footballer who plays as a forward for Shamrock Rovers and the Republic of Ireland women's national team.

Abbie resides in Ringsend Dublin 4, with mother Ethel, father Robert and brother Brandon.

Abbie is a first cousin to Irish professional footballer, Dundalk Fc No.7 Daniel Kelly

Larkin is from Ringsend and played youth football for the local team Cambridge FC. At nine years old Larkin was accepted into The Metropolitan Girls League Academy two years earlier than the usual admission age of 11. She also played at youth level for Home Farm, before joining Shelbourne.

In May 2021, Shelbourne manager Noel King dual-signed Larkin to the club's senior panel from their Women's Under 17 National League squad. She scored on her senior club debut, after entering play as an 84th-minute substitute for Saoirse Noonan in Shelbourne's 5-0 Women's National League win over Athlone Town at Tolka Park on 5 June 2021.

In October 2021 Larkin made her first start for Shelbourne when Noelle Murray fell ill and was unable to play in a league match against Galway. Player of the match Larkin scored one goal and served one assist in Shelbourne's 2-0 win, which was televised live by TG4. Shelbourne overhauled Peamount United on a dramatic final day to win the 2021 Women's National League title. Larkin also played in the 2021 FAI Women's Cup Final, but Shelbourne were beaten 3-1 by Wexford Youths.

Shelbourne announced that Larkin had signed for another season at the end of a successful 2022 Women's National League campaign, in which she helped the club secure a League and Cup double. However they were disappointed when Larkin subsequently experienced "a change of heart" and instead moved to newly-reformed Shamrock Rovers alongside some other Shelbourne players. A controversial and swiftly-deleted tweet on the Shelbourne club account, referencing *The Red Flag* lyrics 'Though cowards flinch and traitors sneer', was perceived as being aimed at the departing players and attracted "huge criticism", particularly given Larkin's youth.

Larkin represented Ireland at schoolgirl level while she attended Ringsend College. She progressed to the Republic of Ireland women's national under-17 football team and served as captain in their 2022 UEFA Women's Under-17 Championship qualification campaign.

Larkin was called up to the senior Republic of Ireland squad for the first time in February 2022, for the 2022 Pinatar Cup in Murcia. She required her parents' permission to miss school for the trip. She won her first cap on 19 February 2022 in a 1-0 defeat by Russia and appeared as a half-time substitute for Kyra Carusa in a 1-0 win over Wales.

On 27 June 2022, Larkin scored her first goal for Ireland on the occasion of her fourth cap, in a 9-0 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup qualification - UEFA Group A win over Georgia in Gori. Coach Vera Pauw was impressed by Larkin's impact: "She's only 17-years-old, but I hope that everybody has seen how talented she is."



Abbie Larkin joined Shamrock Rovers from League of Ireland rivals Shelbourne in 2023



Quest



writer

FRAGMENT

"Eliminating the petrol subsidy early in his administration and unifying the country's exchange rate are steps that have stoked foreign investors' interest in the country. For Nigeria's new president to define himself as different from his predecessor, he would need to start showing results – results that include new and massive private-sector jobs, growing income for the middle class and strong GDP growth."

Nosa Igbinalolor

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Inside Tinubu's first 40 days

PRESIDENT Bola Tinubu's first 40 days in office contrasted sharply with that of his predecessor.

For Muhammadu Buhari, success at the polls had come after three successive failed attempts to become president. His two terms as leader of Africa's most populous nation has been described by many as unimpressive.

"That Buhari managed to turn such wild enthusiasm about his candidacy into grave disappointment," said Ebenezer Obadare of the Council on Foreign Relations, "going from a regime of which many, rightly or not, had high hopes, to one that most can't wait to see the back of, ranks among the most remarkable instances of reputational collapse in the whole of Nigerian political history. It was clear within the first few months – the initial struggle to put together a cabinet being particularly telling – that Buhari, for all his desperation to take power, had not done his homework and was ill prepared for the demands of the office."

Buhari's first 40 days in office were uneventful. He admitted in January 2018 that he was never in a hurry to do anything.

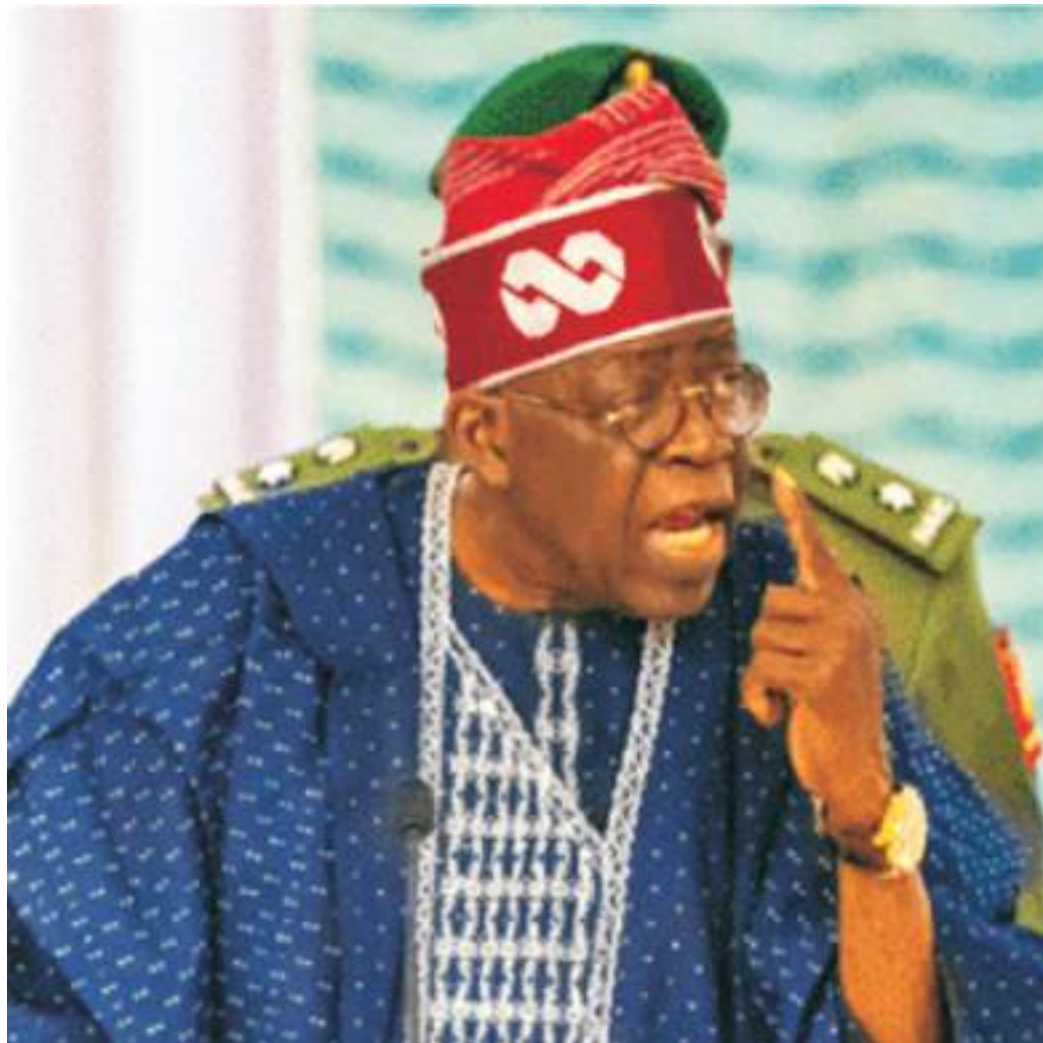
He delayed setting up a cabinet for about six months after he assumed office, an outcome that analysts partly blamed for plunging Nigeria's economy into recession in 2016.

"I don't know why people are so anxious about ministers. But eventually we will have them," he told journalists in June 2015.

The opposition Peoples Democratic Party, in response to the former president's approach, called for prayers to save the government from further inaction and dithering.

"We urge Nigerians to join hands in prayers and offer useful suggestions to President Muhammadu Buhari and the APC because with what we have seen in the last 30 days, the present administration is finding it very difficult to get its bearings right while showing no inclination towards implementing its numerous campaign promises for which they were voted into office at the centre," Olisa Metuh, the then spokesman of the party, said at the time.

He added: "We are deeply worried that the President who promised to unveil his cabinet two weeks after his inauguration has not been able to decide on key



Tinubu

appointments such as ministers, Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), a Chief of Staff and advisers in key sectors of the economy.

"This is more so as the delay has brought government business in ministries, departments and agencies to a dangerous standstill with coordination of important policies vested on ministers and the SGF now in tatters while the system drifts. This situation also creates loopholes through which overzealous persons around that President can connive with unscrupulous elements in the bureaucracy to siphon public resources in addition to possibly misleading the President to violate due process by spending beyond and outside his statutory limits."

Unlike his predecessor who came into office with a deep fund of goodwill, Tinubu is faced with a crisis of legitimacy, which he is skillfully navigating.

He is facing a judicial inquest into his election as president. His opponents say he stole the

February 2023 polls.

He has not been shy to take hard decisions though. He drove subdued hysteria in the country when he pronounced the end of petrol subsidy.

Two weeks after, the Central Bank of Nigeria announced an end to the segmented foreign exchange regime that had led to unprecedented exchange rate distortions and had helped to stymie investments.

Under Tinubu's predecessor, FX management remained too rigid to respond to external shocks.

The World Bank, in its Nigeria Development Update (June 2022) report, warned that "multiple exchange rates, trade restrictions, and financing of the public deficit by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) continue to undermine the business environment. These policies augment long-standing weaknesses in revenue mobilisation, foreign investment, human capital development, infrastructure investment, and governance".

Tinubu said he decided to unify

the official and parallel market rates to save the country from financial haemorrhage.

The President, within two weeks, also signed four consequential bills into law, including the Student Loan Act that will facilitate the provision of financial assistance to Nigerian students in tertiary institutions.

The legislation allows students to access interest-free loans from the Nigerian Education Loan Fund.

The federal government said it was working out modalities to begin the disbursement of the loans from September.

Tinubu last week signed four Executive Orders, including one that suspends the 2023 Finance Act, deferring the date of its commencement from May 28, 2023 to September 1, 2023.

The Customs, Excise Tariff (Variation) Amendment Order, 2023, shifts the commencement date of the tax changes from March 27, 2023 to August 1, 2023 and also in line with the National Tax Policy.

Another Executive Order

suspended the 5 percent excise tax on telecommunication services as well as the excise duties escalation on locally manufactured products.

The President ordered the suspension of the newly introduced Green Tax by way of excise tax on single use plastics, including plastic containers and bottles, as well as the import tax adjustment levy on certain vehicles.

The leadership and operational style of Tinubu and his predecessor are remarkably different.

Buhari ran the country's economy aground. Tinubu has yet to change the narrative, although he has unveiled a rash of policies and initiatives.

Nigeria's economic woes continue to worsen. The local currency has continued to fall steeply. The naira lost about five percent of its value within 24 hours from the 664.04 per dollar recorded at the close of business the day the CBN allowed for a free float of the local currency against the dollar and other global currencies.

Steve Hanke, professor of Economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore termed the naira "another central bank junk currency".

Nigeria continues to face massive development challenges, including the need to reduce the dependence on oil for exports and revenues, diversify its foreign exchange sources, close the infrastructure gap, build strong and effective institutions, as well as address governance issues and strengthen public financial management systems.

The implementation of critical macroeconomic and structural policy reforms by Tinubu's administration has the capacity to place the economy on a stronger and more sustainable path.

Eliminating the petrol subsidy early in his administration and unifying the country's exchange rate are steps that have stoked foreign investors' interest in the country.

For Nigeria's new president to define himself as different from his predecessor, he would need to start showing results – results that include new and massive private-sector jobs, growing income for the middle class and strong GDP growth.